Wednesday, June 29, 2011 | 44 | 11 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 281 | P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Text REG INQUIRER to 2800

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

(BIG) GUN DIPLOMACY US Navy personnel stand in formation on board the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon in Puerto Princesa on Tuesday at the launch of the US-Philippine joint maritime military exercises over the disputed Spratly Islands. The annual event has will happen in the Sulu Sea. This 11-day event will see two US missile destroyers patrol Philippine waters close to the resource-rich and strategically vital West Philippine Sea. —

'Webb here during killings'

Asian war feared over Spratlys row

PUERTO PRINCESA—Long-time allies the Philippines and the United States launched naval exercises on Tuesday amid warnings that growing incidents at sea involving China could lead to one in them.

Two days of the air US missile destroyers sailed into Philippine waters which start the 11 days of training, being held in the wake of regional tensions caused by territorial disputes in the West Philippine (South China) Sea.

The exercises, called Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (Carat), will actually take place in the Sulu Sea.

AMMEN A1-7

Mutual Defense Treaty not binding on US / A17

DOJ: New witnesses, tape 'shatter' alibi

By Nikko Dizon and Jeannette I. Andrade

A PILE of micro reel tapes uncovered for the first time during the reinvestigation of the gruesome Vizconde massacre "shatters" Hubert Webb's claim that he was in the United States at the time of the murders 20 years ago.

In a news conference yesterday announcing the result of the six-month inquiry, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and sol. Feraldi of the National Bureau of Investigation said transcripts of the tapes from the Bureau of Immigration did not show that Webb left the country in 1991.

However, De Lima said that in spite of the testimony of seven new witnesses, the investigation failed to raise new evidence that pin the son of Former Sen. Freddie Webb or any of his co-accused in the scene of the crime.

The reinvestigation by an interagency task force headed by the Department of Justice was ordered by President Aquino in December following the acquittal of the 43-year-old Webb and his co-accused after 15

WEBB A10

WHAT HAPPENED NOW? Justice Secretary Leila de Lima gestures during the closing presentation of the results of the reinvestigation of the Vizconde massacre case at the NBI headquarters in Manila on Tuesday. At left is NBI Director Magtanggol Gatdula and (CIDG chief Supt. Joel Coronel (right).

Bishop Cruz tells 'Pajero 7': Confess

By Jocelyn R. Uy, Inquirer Mindanao and Marlon Cinco Inquirer Visayas Bureau

ARCHBISHOP Emerlito Cruz, a staunch anti-gambling advocate, roped six kingpins in the Church's crusade and openly admits if they were among the seven bishops reported to have received Mitsubishi Pajeros from the Arroyo administration.

Cruz said silence could bring down the whole Catholic Church hierarchy. "Whether this is proven by the PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office) or not, the first should come out," he said.

PCSO Chair Margarita Juico has disclosed that the charity agency is verifying reports that Arroyo used its funds to get the support of a number of bishops, giving them vehicles before she stepped down from office last year.

BISHOP 10

BLESSED ARE THE... Roman Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos prays near former President Arroyo in this photo taken on Dec. 1, 2005, in Roman City

Angry Freddie calls NBI 'evil'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ANGERED by frank efforts to prove that, contrary to his father's claims, he was indeed was in the Philippines at the time of the Vizconde massacre, Freddie Webb yesterday assailed the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and its "evil ways."

Webb said that while it had been shown that Jennifer Allora, the star witness in the trial, was not to be believed, the NBI would "do everything to prove" herself.

"Finally it has been agreed that Allora was an incredible witness. But then again who was the handler of Allora? Wasn't it the NBI? You mean to tell me, they will now agree that they erred?" the former senator said in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

He added: "They will not agree. They will do everything to protect the institution at the expense of people telling the truth.

"They will trample and run over you until they get to those who are the ones lying... Sobrang umapaging sila ang sabihin (They are the liars, they are the bad ones). They have their evil ways and they think that they can get away with it."

In a ruling issued last Dec. 14, the Supreme Court dismissed Allora's testimony and acquit-

ANSWER A10

Vindication the second time around for Lauro

By Cathy Tamayo

LAURO VEGOSHEE now wants to take it easy but a stronger urge remains—to see and talk to the witnesses who saw Hubert Webb in SF Homes when he was supposed to be in America.

"Of course, I'm still shocked that they finally confused but I still want to ask them how come it took them so long to tell the truth to the authorities," said the feeble-voiced widower who lost his family to drug-crazed addicts 20 years ago.

The 71-year-old Vizconde, who was in the United States working in a South Carolina restaurant when his wife and two children were murdered, also has the answer to his question.

"It's difficult to compare with money and power," he said wistfully, while playing with an unlighted cigarette on Monday at

VINDICATION A10

Philippines taken off US trafficking blacklist

THE UNITED States on Monday removed the Philippines and Singapore from a human trafficking watch list that had drawn concerns from the close allies.

The US State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report has become increasingly sensitive for fence-sitting governments, which face a cut-off of US assistance if they are found to be unresponsive in fighting trafficking.

The latest report elevated the Philippines, Singapore and Laos off the watch list to the so-called Tier 2, which means that the countries do not fully meet standards on human trafficking but are making efforts to do so.

President Aquino was delighted about the upgrade.

"The President welcomes this upgrade ... and is very very appreciative of the upgrade made by the State Department," Mr.

PHILIPPINES A13

Miriam goes to war vs gov't gobbledygook

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF PRESIDENT Aquino sometimes finds that his message is often lost in translation, perhaps this billboard's for her.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who admits to backing any sitting President, has taken on a new advocacy: to encourage—and occasionally ridicule—effective communication.

INSIDE A15

NEWS	NEWS	ACROSS	NEWS
Frank Chavez files new plunder case vs GMA / A2	**PCGG** seeks P17B from SMC / A2	**100-yr-old** folk common in Pangasinan town / A10	**US** honors Zambo city prosecutor vs human smugglers / A18

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

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P-Noy can't quit fags yet

By Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Aquino is not ready to follow the advice of former President Fidel V. Ramos for people to quit smoking.

"That is this time, next year," Mr. Aquino told the hecklers on Monday night at the wake for Josephine Bautista Ramos, daughter of the former president, who succumbed to lung cancer.

"Can it (smoking) induce stress?" Mr. Aquino quipped when asked what he thought of Ramos' advice to people not to smoke that he gave in a TV interview, citing what happened to his daughter.

Jo Ramos was a talented athlete and musician. She brought honor to the Philippines as a competitive tennis player. She was a singer and musician in bands and a Tuesday dinner for Gary Valenciano. She also smoked. Although the cancer was discovered in November last year, she kept it from her family until the smoke ups, Ramos said.

Told that he might suffer the same fate, Mr. Aquino said, "(Sana ma lahat naman may sakit kami (We hope we all have our own fate)."

Another plunder case filed vs GMA

By Marlon Ramos

LAWYER Frank Chavez yesterday filed another plunder case at the justice department against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly using nearly P1.6 billion in fertilizer funds to bolster her presidential bid in 2004.

Chavez, a former solicitor general, blamed the now Pampanga representative for claiming that corruption had worsened under the Aquino administration.

"There is the time for her to realize that the current president is not good governance," Chavez told reporters before submitting his complaint-affidavit in Hale Prosecutor Monica Leung.

"She should not have the temerity to do that because... the trail she left behind is a trail of unmitigated corruption, pilferage and plunder. That's the only legacy that she will show to be remembered [for]," he said.

Separate fertilizer scam

In his complaint, Chavez named Arroyo, former Agriculture Secretary Luis Ramon Lorenzo Jr., former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante and seven others of facilitating the release of P1.56 billion to congressmen, governors and mayors nationwide "for (the) purpose of political extension in 2004."

He said the alleged scheme was one part of the P728 million so-called "fertilizer fund scam," in which funds for fertilizer and other agriculture inputs were allegedly used to promote the presidential campaign of Arroyo in the May 2004 elections.

Citing the documents he presented as evidence, Chavez said the money was intended for the purchase of farm inputs to be distributed to poor farmers.

Not a drop

"Not not a single drop of fertilizer reached the farmers," he claimed.

Apart from Arroyo, Lorenzo and Bolante, other respondents were Agriculture Assistant Secretary Ibarra Pedrajas, Budget Undersecretary Mario Relampagos and Budget Director Nora Oliveros.

Also charged were Jaime Paule, Jose Lingan Florendo, Lou Aquino and Jane Fabian, previously identified as "runners" in the alleged diversion of the funds.

Bolante, who fled the country before the Senate elected its public inquiry into the issue in 2005, was the supposed architect of the scam. He is a former associate of Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

In March 2007, the funds processed by his nonexistent firm released on Feb. 13, 2004, the day before the ban on the distribution of public funds during the election period was to take effect and a week after the P728 million was given to Bolante's office.

Signed by GMA

Attached to his 21-page complaint were some 200 pages of documents, including the special allotment release order signed by Arroyo directing then Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to release the funds.

"There is evidence of how an country's leaders have schemingly [sic] and systematically earmarked billions to public funds... which were shamelessly utilized to fund selfish political ambitions," he said in his affidavit.

"This irony, like other stories of graft and corruption in our country's history, fell on the predictably deaf ears" of resigned Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez and her immediate predecessor, former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, Chavez said.

Also included as evidence were the copies of the Senate committee reports on the alleged fertilizer fund diversion in 2004 and 2005.

Chavez said he actually filed the same case before the Office of the Ombudsman in 2006, but then Marcelo did not act on the complaint.

Refiled case

He said he filed a motion seeking to withdraw his original complaint so the assigned body last week on he could file a new complaint with the DOJ.

"I was hospitalized that time [in 2012] shall have lasted probable cause, then it will endorse this to a new Ombudsman and all of us can hope for change," he said.

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P-Noy marks 1st year tomorrow

PRESIDENT Aquino will mark his first year in office on Thursday by issuing a call for the people to rally behind his administration to its drive to reform the country.

On the morning of June 30, Mr. Aquino will sign into law the measure postponing the elections set for August in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), whose passage by Congress the administration considers a major victory as it will pave the way for long-delayed political reforms in the impoverished region.

Later on Thursday, Mr. Aquino will launch the "Pilipinas Natin" campaign seeking to call on the people to "become active participants in nation building."

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said the passage of the ARMM postponement law was more than a political victory of the President in Congress.

"More than a victory in the House and Senate, it will push victory in the reform effort of the President and this administration," he said.

Under the new law, the ARMM elections will be synchronized with the May 2013 local polls.

Administration officials claim that the exact elections would ensure that the so-called "command votes" will not figure in the next ARMM voting as previously.

A Palace statement described the "Pilipinas Natin" campaign, to be launched at the Philippine Sports Arena (formerly Ultra), as aiming to "mobilize the people to become active participants in nation-building."

The event will gather at least 40,000 youth leaders and millennial volunteers and will have Mr. Aquino "issuing a call for renewed volunteerism and active participation on the way to sustainable reforms."

Lacierda said the aim is for the people to continue in the efforts for reform by this administration," Lacierda said. (Christine F. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio)

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SMC owes gov't ₱17.6B—PCGG

By Tarra Quismundo

EIGHT DECADES after the 20-percent share of former Marcos crony Eduardo Cojuangco, the San Miguel Corporation (SMC) still owes the government P17.65 billion worth of shares, according to the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

The PCGG has filed a petition before the Supreme Court seeking to compel the food and beverage giant to deliver the sequestered shares, which represent four percent of the SMC shares owned by the Universal Industry Investment Fund (UIF).

The so-called "UIF block," according to the PCGG is "sequestered and distinct" from the shares recently cleared by the high court as legally belonging to Cojuangco, President Aquino's uncle and chair of SMC.

In a petition filed Monday, PCGG sought SMC's compliance with a September 2000 Supreme Court order upholding a Sandiganbayan resolution ordering the PCGG some 26,450,000 of SMC shares held in trust for sequestered partners.

"We are merely seeking to implement a final and executory decision of the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan," PCGG Chair Andres Bautista said.

"The Court decided this matter a long time ago. It's about time the Republic get back what rightfully belongs to it—the shares in trust for the Filipino executive forces," Bautista said in a statement.

Tesda seeks DOJ probe of former execs

By Marlon Ramos

ANOTHER state agency mandated to help poor Filipinos is claiming to have uncovered lavish and irregular expenditures of former administration officials.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) yesterday sought the help of the Department of Justice (DOJ) on both sides the possible criminal liability of its former officials who allegedly facilitated the release of billions of pesos for questionable transactions.

Tesda Director General Joel Villanueva personally submitted to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima documents concerning various projects under his predecessor, Rolito Rep. Augusto Syjuco.

In a closed-door meeting, Villanueva asked De Lima to extend "Tesda its cooperation in examining the documents and assist in seeing the accountability of Syjuco and Tesda personnel involved in the allegedly anomalous projects.

"Tesda would be the next (to expose corruption) after PCSO," De Lima said, referring to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

In a recent meeting with business editors and reporters, PCSO Chair Margarita Juico disclosed that the state-owned charity agency incurred some P9 billion in debt because of the previous board's questionable financial transactions, including lavish advertising spending.

Villanueva said among the Tesda expenditures that he wanted scrutinized was the P2.4 billion earmarked for the Bonifacio Global Scholarship which, he said, was awarded to the by-night and nonexistent schools.

"I was really amazed when I found out that these were scholarship vouchers covered by bouncing checks that were issued by the previous administration," Villanueva said.

He said a previous report from the Commission on Audit had uncovered irregularities in the way Tesda had allocated funds to nonexistent schools and awarded scholarships.

Of the P2.4 billion, he said only P886 million was banked by receipts and other pertinent documents.

'UNAUTHORIZED' PAYMENT TO FOREIGNERS

Former Napocor execs face graft raps

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER top officials of the National Power Corp. are facing graft and malversation charges before the Sandiganbayan for allegedly paying US$4.6 million in 2003 to foreign representatives of a coup-ridden oil firm who turned out to be of "doubtful authority."

The Office of the Ombudsman ordered charges to be filed against Rogelio Olango, former Napocor executive vice president for corporate services and officer-in-charge, and Alberto Guanzon, former chair of the company's committee on contract supervision on insurance capacities.

The Ombudsman set bail at P30,000 for the graft charges, but maintained that the malversation charges were non-bailable.

The **graft** and malversation cases against Singapore-based foreign nationals Sir Harry Tsun and Terence Tebenkoh for lack of jurisdiction.

It also agreed with earlier findings by the National Bureau of Investigation pointing to a conspiracy among Mergo Gunawan, Tsun and Sebastapol.

A resolution approved by Acting Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro on June 9 told Mergo and Gunawan liable for "giving unwarranted benefits, advantage or preference" to Napocor funds, "causing undue injury" to the government.

The case stemmed from a complaint by Ravenna Industrial Corp. (RIC) which had a pending claim against funds foreign tied Holdings, Inc. (GHI), a power supplier of Napocor. The claim was in connection with a dredging project for which GHI contracted RIC's services.

When GHI failed to pay up, RIC filed a case. Funds foreign attached before the Makati's Regional Trial Court. The RIC sought to collect the amount GHI would in turn get from Napocor.

But the state-owned power firm said it no longer had any payments to make to GHI, having settled all its obligations through Tsun, who in turn was supposedly authorized by Sebastapol to make the transaction.

But SIC contended that Napocor had no authority to pay GHI through Tsun, who it said had no board authority from GHI.

The SIC then added that as early as October 2000, it already sought Napocor's assistance to recover GHI's obligations. Napocor, however, said GHI's contract with Napocor had been completed and that the latter could no longer accede to the request.

In the resolution, the Ombudsman said the Napocor officials failed to look into the claims that they acted in good faith in dealing with Tsun.

It said the Napocor officials knew they were dealing with foreign nationals, which was why they should have made "stringent verifications" before releasing the money, especially since they also knew that GHI's Manila office had closed down in 2000 or three years before the questioned transaction.

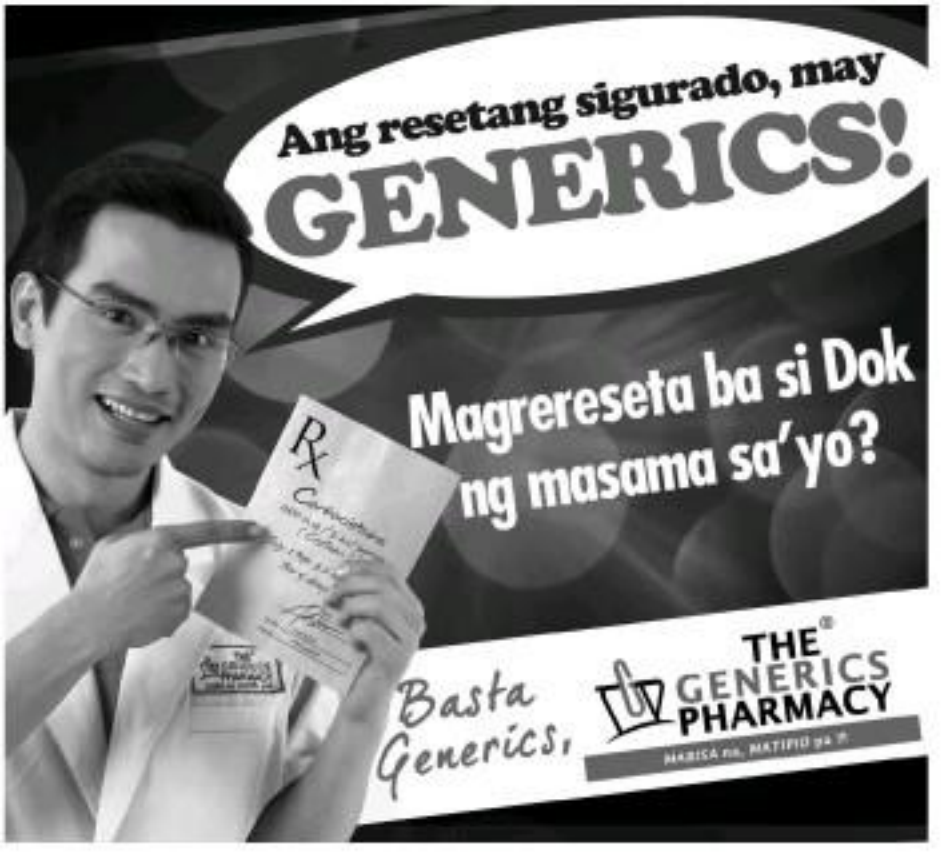
Jailed OFW begs Noy, Facebook pals

AN EMBRAU Filipina worker facing execution in Saudi Arabia has appealed to the Aquino administration to help him raise the "blood money" that would secure his release.

Domilyn Lanuza, who has been jail in Dammam, Saudi city of Dammam since August 2009 for the murder of a fellow employee, has been appealing for donations on his Facebook account after his the approved family finally agreed to forgive him in exchange for blood money.

The jailed overseas worker maintains that he killed the victim in self-defense.

Ms. Lanuza requested netizens, especially those members of the supposed family now suddenly change their mind on the agreed deal to provide the blood money has already signed, that he is pleading for assistance from the Philippine government, Migrante-Middle East regional coordinator John Leonard Monterona said in a statement. — Jeremy Maiig



In case of fire, text

THE BUREAU of Fire Protection's (BFP) report through text service is now nationwide.

The Department of Interior and Local Government said the public can report fire incidents anywhere in the country through text or short messaging service and expect prompt response from the BFP and private firefighting volunteers.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo said the public can text the exact location of fire incidents to 09153-666666.

The text messaging service used to be confined to Metro Manila.

"Now even those in other parts of the country may use SMS and TXTFire (Philippines Reinforced if they need help," Robredo said.

BFP chief, Director Fernando Bautista, Jr. and TXTFire Philippines Foundation's president Gerie Chua on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Agreement that formally launched the nationwide text messaging system for fire and emergency services.

The text messaging service was piloted in Metro Manila in April.

Under the agreement, all text messages, alerts and advisories about fire, calamities and emergency situations generated from the public through the TXTFire facilities shall be relayed to the nearest BFP station and fire volunteer groups.

Both parties agreed to keep an open radio communication line between them to facilitate quick access on fire alerts so they could respond 24/7.

TXTFire, which was founded by Chua, has 220,000 members nationwide and more than 4,500 volunteer groups.

(Nanc Patchinsan)

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

JUNE 29 (Wednesday)
Feather: Feaster
Peter and Paul, Apostles
Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.

1st Reading Acts 12:1-11*

About the time King Herod decided to persecute some members of the Church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword, and when he saw how I pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.

... But while Peter was kept in prison, the whole Church prayed earnestly for him.

On the very night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound by a double chain, while guards kept watch at the gates of the prison.

Suddenly an angel of the Lord stood there and a light shone in the prison cell. The angel tapped Peter on the side and woke him saying, "Get up quickly!" At once the chains fell from Peter's wrists. The angel said, "Put on your belt and your sandals." Peter did so, and the angel added, "Wrap on your cloak and follow me."

Peter followed him out; yet he did not realize that what was happening with the angel was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first guard and then the second and they came to the iron door leading out to the city, which opened of itself for them. They went out and made their way down a narrow alley when suddenly the angel left him.

Gospel Mt 16:13-19

Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi. He asked his disciples, "What do people say of the Son of Man? Who do they say I am?" They said, "For some of them you are John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Jesus asked them, "But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "It is well for you, Simon, son of Jonah, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

"And now I say to you, You are Peter [or Rock] and on this rock I will build my Church, and never will the power of death overcome it. "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and what you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven."

Reflection:

Still progress. Our faith in Jesus grows through moments of ambiguity to clarity. So whenever we are asked "Who do you say Jesus is?" we usually want to know just which view was most publicly taken by people from a particular way. Our faith in Jesus teaches us that moral witnesses we are capable of appropriating Jesus' meaning in a form and how this faith recognition nourishes our relationship and surrender to Him. Like Jesus, we can reach the summit of faith if we are shamed and docile enough to receive God's grace of self-revelation.

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Bishop Cruz tells 'Pajero 7': Confess, come clean

From page A1

Juico has added that allies of Arroyo on the previous PCSO board left the agency with some P4 billion in debt.

"They (the bishops) should tell the truth, admit that they have received a vehicle and for what reason or purpose or they can explain if it was provided as a personal favor," Monsalvez said in a Church-run radio interview.

2 bishops

At the forum in Intramuros, Manila, Cruz and Bacani reminded their colleagues of a millenium policy adopted by Catholic bishops six years ago against soliciting and receiving

BISHOP TEODORO BACANI: Drains and conquers the Church

BISHOP OSCAR CRUZ: Alone could bring down hierarchy.

BISHOP DEOGRACIAS INIGUEZ: Disclosure must be validated.

funds from illegal and undisclosed gambling.

Cruz said that even if the PCSO would not be able to subsidize such projects, "it doesn't mean that they are lies." He said those concerned should speak up. "Otherwise, the whole hierarchy is involved."

In Bindoy, at least two bishops—Jesse Donaldo of Ozamiz and Juan de Dios Pueblos of Dumaguete—sent a Mr. Andres Cabrera, the treasurer learned.

Donaldo has a gray Pajero, which is often used by Church-run radio station dxDU, a source in the bishops's residence in Ozamiz City said.

The Ozamiz diocese had also received a truck from the PCSO.

But Calbayog Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian said Juico's disclosure was a delicate matter that must be validated.

Pueblos's Pajero, Montero

Pueblos uses a blue Pajero. He aide, Fr. Leo Cleare, begged off from issuing any statement, saying the bishop was not aware of the issue.

Cleare, executive director of the Caraga Conference for Peace and Development, an advocacy group formed during Arroyo's time, also has a new right-hand driver, dressed in casillas, if Pueblos around the old Pajero he was using in pub. lic engagements in Butuan City.

Pueblos also uses a new silver Mitsubishi Montero Sports.

Father Shu-monch, Pueblos, a known ally of the Arroyo administration, called on President Aquino to swipe over all illegal irregularities committed by his party mates, classmates and shooting buddies.

Malacañang dilemma

Bishops previously identified with the so-called "Malacañang dioceses" may be among those who received expensive cars which the Arroyo administration had financed using PCSO funds, according to an Inquirer source in the Church.

"There was this 'Malacañang diocese,' the members of which are known to all the bishops," said the source, who requested not to be named given the sensitivity of the matter.

These bishops were supposedly given goodie "in bundle" by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, including vehicles and projects, said the source.

Talk of the new "ecclesiastical boundary" came about during Arroyo's Cathedral years in Malacañang, having been linked to election fraud, the "Hello Garci" controversy and the Amaryllix ZTE-broker NBN-ZTE deal.

2 prelates reject check

Bacani said the previous administration had resorted to efforts to soften the stance of the bishops and to "divide and conquer" the Church.

"But I am not sure if this (giving of cars) was part of that strategy," Bacani said at the forum hosted by the Catholic Media Network.

At the height of Arroyo's political problems, it was reported that the Philippine Commission and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) had offered cash donations to bishops ranging from P200,000 to P500,000.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Archbishop Angel Lagdameo and Palawan Archbishop Pedro Arigo reportedly declined the checks.

Even if they were not among Pagcor's iconic Catholic bishops refused to comment on the issue.

Terrano, Strada, Fortuner ...

Archbishop Socrates Villegas of Lingayen-Dagupan said he was using an old Nissan Terrano, the Archbishop Palaca's service vehicle.

Bacolod Bishop Martin Jumoad said "it's difficult to give a reaction to that." Jumoad uses a Nissan Strada.

Legazpi Bishop Orlando Quevedo, a former governor of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, rides in a Toyota Fortuner.

Digos Bishop Wilfredo Manlapaz uses a Ford Everest, while Maasin Bishop Precioso Cantillas uses a white Toyota Fortuner.

Cebu bishops

Not one of the Cebu bishops received a "memo from the PCSO, according to two officials of the

Palace backs PCSO 'housecleaning'

MALACAÑANG believes the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has a good case against those who were in charge of the PCSO under the Arroyo administration following its discovery of irregularities committed under their watch.

"It is a recognition of the anomalies found in the PCSO, and we believe that the PCSO has the evidence to warrant such a finding of irregularities during the past PCSO administration," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said yesterday when asked whether the Palace was backing Juico's findings on the state of PCSO finances after a yearlong "housecleaning."

Juico has said that the PCSO board of the Arroyo administration had used charity funds to cover two contracts with favored media groups and to sign guarantees in loan agreements that ballooned the agency's debt to a P4-billion deficit by July 2010.

Charity funds diverted

Juico unveils to cabinet his findings that showed how funds meant for charity were diverted in the form of commissions to favored publicity and communications firms.

Malacañang spokesperson Lacierda said Juico, who met with President Aquino last week, had informed him about the PCSO's filing of cases against Manuel Garcia whom Juico identified as "one of those involved in the anomalies."

Garcia, who served as PCSO manager in the PCSO for the last 12 years until he was fired in March, was behind the 6/49 placement racket in the agency according to Juico.

Juico said there were PCSO checks issued to media bookkeepers that found their way into Garcia's bank accounts.

Asked on comment on the charge that Juico had included in the deficit liabilities owed from other previous administrations, Lacierda said: "If there are (pieces of) evidence, the PCSO will prepare and file the cases."

It was former PCSO chair Manuel Morato, who had served as a member of the PCSO board during Arroyo's administration, who leveled the charge against Juico.

Christine O. Avendaño

FR. ROBERT REYES: 'We were weakened as an institution.'

Cebu Archdiocese

But the head of a Church-based organization activated school making and receiving funds from the PCSO until 2009.

Other bishops in the Visayas refused to comment.

In Pampanga, Archbishop Oscar Antonio said he did not receive a Mitsubishi Pajero, other vehicles or money from the PCSO, any government charity institution or from anyone.

Antonio-owner Bryan Isaacs, supervise vehicle from the Mother of Good Counsel Seminary the and his staff in the archdiocese saw a Mitsubishi Montero for official work, his secretary Fr. Francis Mallari, said.

Villena

In Nueva Ecija, Bishop Roman Villena, another bishop mentioned in the drive to Arroyo, was not in his office when the Inquirer on Tuesday tried to seek his reaction to the allegations against the PCSO.

The bishop does not have a Pajero and the diocese has no vehicle donated by the PCSO, said Villena's secretary.

Villena served as National Episcopal Council chair in Cabanatuan City during Arroyo's term.

The Inquirer tried to reach other Catholic bishops in northern and Central Luzon for reactions, but they did not take calls. They neither replied to text messages.

Construction of convents

A member of Catholic bishops did not only get expensive cars out of public funds, but also benefited in other forms during the term of his mentor, said Fr. Robert Reyes, a critic of the previous administration.

"Not just the Pajeros, the construction houses (for convents), rectories, cathedrals, and gave away cars," Reyes said in a phone interview.

Reyes, who is now based in Palawan, said the Church's weakness was exploited by a President who knew how to silence moral and spiritual leaders through corruption.

Reyes, who claimed to have an idea who these bishops were, said the practice of taking donations from foreign churches, not only before she stepped down, but also during the "reign points" of the past administration like the election cheating exercise in 2005.

He said the money, used for "donations" in the churches, did not only come from the presidential or emergency fund, but also from the backers of the PCSO and Pagcor. The latter agency, in turn, has diverted Church funds to whether to support gambling or not.

Reyes said the creation of the Presidential Advisory on Religious Affairs by Arroyo was also meant to determine who among the bishops must likely needed to be neutralized or co-opted.

"The real and fundamental role of the Church is to complain and act the words straight (to government). We (were) weakened as an institution because of this (money)," he said.

Return vehicles

He said with the ousting of the supervisors of the past administration, it was time for the Church to come clean. He urged the bishops involved to return the Pajero to the government.

"They don't have to make it public or announce it. Just listen to their conscience," he said.

Bishop Medardo Villanueva of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines-Luzon Central Episcopal Area said "there has to be an investigation to know if this (vehicles for bishops) is true or just hearsay."

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano proposed that Mr. Aquino form a committee to look into Juico's charges.

Nothing wrong if ...

Cayetano, chair of the Senate ethics committee, said he saw nothing wrong with bishops receiving cars for their use in their ministries "only if it was a gift and not money if these were given as bribe. With reports from TJ Burgonio in Manila, Evarra Dimpas, Inquirer Central Luzon, Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Visayas bureau chief, Shannon Murallon, Cecile Suerte Felipe, Gil Gabieta, Felipe Celino and Nestor J. Burgos, Inquirer Visayas; Frankie Caliguid, Julie L. Alipala, Jerome Lim, Jeffrey M. Tupas and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

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9:00 - 12:00 noon
1:30 - 5:00 pm

JULY 1, 2011, Friday
9:00 - 11:00 am
11:00 - 12:00 noon
1:30 - 2:30 pm
2:30 - 3:30 pm
3:30 - 4:30 pm
4:30 - 5:30 pm

JULY 2, 2011, Saturday
10:00 - 11:00 am
11:00 - 12:00 noon
1:30 - 2:30 pm
2:30 - 3:30 pm

PNP goes dark to save on power

ELECTRICITY is so expensive in the Philippines not even the national police force can afford it.

To save on electricity, the Philippine National Police (PNP) is considering the idea of enforcing blackouts at Camp Crame at certain hours in the afternoon every Tuesday and Thursday.

On those days, lights may be cut at the PNP headquarters even before the sun sets.

Chief Supt. Jesus Andres Mirlad, head of the PNP Headquarters Support Service, said the plan to impose "forced blackouts" would lower electrical bills and oblige PNP personnel to attend other activities in the afternoon.

But he clarified that the countermeasures was still up for approval.

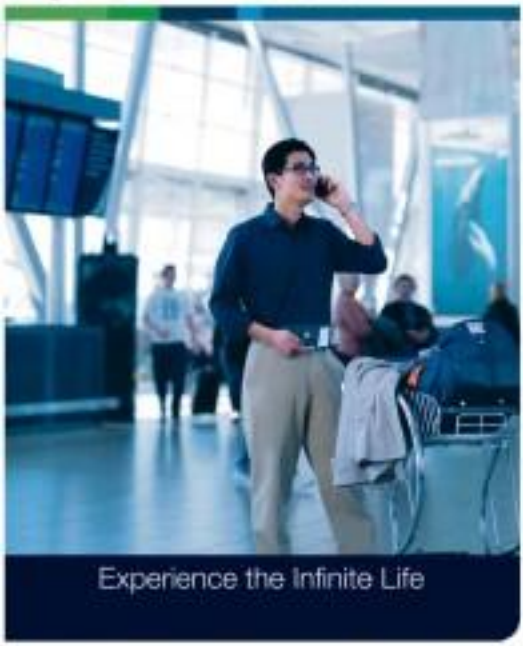
At present, the policy is to cut off power to classrooms 1 p.m. at the camp.

In an interview, Mirlad said electric bills in the compound, which housed several police officers as well as subordinates and commissioners, reached about P5 million every month, although occupants of housing units had their own sub-meters.

In the summer, the PNP had to pay about P7 million more than in previous months, he noted.

Under Mirlad's proposal, penalties for violations range from demerits to suspension or forfeiture of pay, among other possible consequences.

AJ Sip



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Across the NATION

Floods surprise Central Luzon folk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Old Pampanga settlements like Lubao and Guagua here die brunt of floods, looking like a swollen river where, save for some strands of mangroves, green patches are almost gone.

Military officials said to persons aboard a helicopter saw this scene on Tuesday, officials of the military's Northern Luzon Command said.

Lubao and Guagua are at the mouth of the Pampanga River, where at least 30 rivers in Central Luzon drain before exiting to Manila Bay.

Floods in 200 of 537 villages in Pampanga were different this time because water rose to as much as 1 feet although the province was not placed under any storm signal, said Gov. Lilia Pineda.

Garbage and waste hyacinths blocked floodwaters from draining to Manila Bay, she added.

While residents in Lubao and Guagua have mastered ways of coping with floods (basic and improvised floating devices are common items in their households, for one), those in towns in Bataan are beginning to feel their impact.

Ruella Garcia, a resident of Sta. Ana town, said her house has been flooded waist-deep since Sunday. Usually spared from floods, residents of Bataan now realize that having a second floor is a must.

The number of flooded villages in Zambales, Pampanga, Bulacan, Bataan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija reached 668 on Monday, reports from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said.

The OCD said floods disrupted the lives of more than a million people, most of whom are in Bulacan and Pampanga. Bulacan, a coastal province, counted the biggest number of evacuees at 49,028.

The national government's zero-casualty target was not met in Central Luzon as deaths due to drowning rose to five, excluding the three children who drowned before Tropical Storm "Falcon" battered the region.

Three people in Marikina, Bulacan, and in Hermosa, Bataan, remained missing as of Tuesday.

Damage to crops, livestock and fisheries in Central Luzon reached P157,861 million as of Tuesday, reports from the Department of Agriculture's regional offices said.

Zambales and Pampanga reported damaged dikes and spillways.

Bulacan officials said the floodwaters that submerged villages in Pulilan and Calumpit town came from the upland towns of the provinces and nearby Pampanga and Nueva Ecija.

A FARMER tends to his cows in a flooded road in San Simon, Pampanga. The floods caught residents and officials by surprise because no storm signal has been raised in the province. AP

The Malolos City council on Monday declared a state of calamity in the city after 31 of its 51 villages were submerged by floodwaters.

Imelda Lucero, 73, a resident of Barangay San Pablo in Malolos, said many residents were surprised about the floods because they never experienced this even as Typhoon "Ondoy" (Ketsana) battered us in 2009.

The last major flooding in the city happened in 1979, she said.

In Hagonoy, at least 13 villages in Hagonoy City remained flooded on Tuesday, the city disaster risk reduction and management council said.

Vladimir Mata, city administrator, said Teresa de Guzman, 24, was reported missing after he fell from his boat in Barangay Bunsuran Malino on Monday. Mata said reports showed that De Guzman had an epileptic seizure.

On Tuesday morning, major streets in Dagupan's business district were under water because of the high tide that caused the city's river systems to overflow.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said many villages here were flooded because it was only now that runoff rainwater from eastern Pangasinan's mountains reached the city.

"We are the last stop, the catch basin. So it is something we cannot remedy," he said.

He said that as the height of the rains dumped by Typhoon Isang took only a day, major flooding happened in the city. "But it is only now, after the rains had stopped that the water from the mountains is starting to go down. Thus, there's the high tide," Lim said.

Disaster council reports said floodwaters were as deep as 6 feet in seven villages and as shallow as a foot in other communities. Reports from Rowena Dimpas and Gervasio Reyes Jr., reporter Central Luzon, and Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

SMUGGLED AND FAKE WIRES CAN KILL

Fake wires and cables are circulating in the market. They are substandard, many of which use a combination of Copper and Copper Clad Steel (CCS) or Copper and Copper Clad Aluminum (CCA) conductors.

In many countries, CCS or CCA is not used as building wires inside houses, buildings and factories:

- Prohibited by IEC for use in European countries;
- Banned in Japan, Australia, Canada, Mexico, and other Latin American Countries; and
- Even China banned its use in urban areas

In the Philippines, CCS and CCA are not approved by the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) and therefore have no BPS markings.

WHY IS IT DANGEROUS?

1.) CCS or CCA has lower capacity than copper to carry the electric current needed, which causes over heating and eventually fire.

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HOW TO TELL FAKE WIRES?

1. Fake wires are LIGHTER in weight than copper.
2. Look at the conductor's CROSS-SECTION. If you see white/silver inner portions, aluminum or steel is present.
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4. Labels and marks (such as quality certifications, logos etc.) are ALTERED, MISSING or MISSPELLED.

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Baron Cruz/Rolando B. Fernandez

C. Luzon braces for housing tasks

By Tonette Orejas
Clark Freeport

IN A HALL full of mayors, Celestina Cruz, 72, could have lent a credible voice for why it was about time that local governments take direct and active roles in low-cost and socialized housing programs in their areas.

Cruz was quiet at the launch of the Central Luzon leg of the Pabahay Caravan at Clark Freeport on Monday, but rode Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr.'s effort to the home loan of 152 families belonging to the Tanduang Highdukpithe Isaroq Pamphilo, Olandia, Bulacan Phase 1.

She and her neighbors had waited 17 years for the government to give them the land in the even as they through the help of the Angels Abang Foundation, had availed themselves of a P6,325-million loan under the national government's Community Mortgage Program (CMP) to tie back as 1994.

If she had her way, Cruz could have wanted to tell officials that dreaming to own a house and lot should not take too long because the wait, by itself, breeds uncertainty and diminishes dignity.

> Dreaming to own a house and lot should not take too long because the wait breeds uncertainty and diminishes dignity

Long wait

"We have been longing to own a house and lot," Cruz, a former beautician says in Filipino.

The larger condition—a long-festering housing backlog estimated at 3.6 million in 2005 and growing at an average of 350,000 yearly—needs more hands to solve the problem right and fast or where it is needed most, in communities, says Vice President Jejomar Binay, who led the caravan.

Binay also also chairs the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), says the participation of local governments is providing shelter is indispensable. "My only appeal is that we give the housing assistance to those who really need it," he says.

Problem is, the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) devolved only urban functions of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board to local governments.

The local and provincial boards process and approve subdivision plans for residential, commercial, industrial or other development purposes. The provincial board reviews and approves the zoning/urban land use plans (ZLUP) of component cities and towns.

Cities and towns with ZLUPs issue locational clearances to locally-significant projects.

Local housing board

On June 6, Congress began to expand the powers and responsibilities of local governments in making homelessness. It approved on third and final reading House Bill No. 4346 that creates the Local Housing Board (LHB) in every city and town.

Housing Committee Rep. Rodolfo Mitra says the bill provides an administrative body that complements the efforts of shelter agencies to effect the full implementation of RA 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act.

Bulacan Governor Jo Josiah of the National Housing Authority (NHA) in further's and Governor Lucas, says local governments have been involved in resettlement projects since the 1990s.

Often, however, local governments could not provide land via a partnership with the NHA, that funds the construction of houses, he says. For every hectare, the agency can build 175 units or 40 square meters each. "But it P75,000 each, a house and lot can be paid in 25 years at P300 most Mo.

Ms. Ana Oliveros, president of the Social Housing Finance Corp., says more than 25,000 families in Central Luzon availed themselves of housing but even through the CMP. At least 1,897 families are following suit this year and 1,610 others in the next five years.

But HUDCC data show these figures to be very modest. The housing backlog in Central Luzon was estimated at 490,368 from 2005 to 2010, pacing it on the 6 other Southern Luzon and Metro Manila.

For Binay, the work of local governments starts with having a ZLUP because this determines which areas are for residential and other uses.

Many says Central Luzon, especially Bulacan and Pampanga, has eased restrictions by hosting six resettlements for families removed from out of the right-of-way of the NorthRail project. Pulilan also hosts others' and police-model villages in San Jose del Monte City, and Nueva and Sta Rosa towns.

Another challenge, Binay says, is how to keep a balance between agriculture and housing in Central Luzon's 2.1 million hectares, half of which are alienable and disposable (public entry-owned). "We should keep in that way by updating our ZLUPs," he says.

'Urduja' comes home

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Lingayen, Pangasinan

URDUJA, an oil painting on canvas by leading postwar muralist Antonio Gonzalo Dumlao, will soon adorn the walls of the Urduja House, the official residence of the Pangasinan governor in Lingayen town.

Two weeks ago, the provincial board authorized Gov. Amado Espino Jr. to buy the 40" x 28" painting, which is now owned by Luis Villanueva.

Provincial administrator Nabel Baraan says Villanueva offered to sell the painting to the province upon the behest of his aging mother's former employer, journalist and socialite Carmen Oria Villanueva, who told him that was "where it rightfully belongs."

"In the old Villanueva lady mother, and which we think is the right thing to do, the governor is planning to put it inside the Urduja House to serve as one of the major cultural pieces that will be displayed," Baraan says.

Princess Urduja was a legendary warrior believed to have ruled the dynastic Kingdom of Tanudan, a vast area lying by the shores of the Lingayen Gulf and the West Philippine Sea (Sonshe China Sea).

In his appreciation, Villanueva says the painting of the half-naked Urduja was acquired by his parents from Dumlao himself at the close of the 1954 Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) exhibit in Manila. The painting won third prize in the conservative painting category in the AAP annual contest.

"For years, it hung at the Villanueva family's ancestral home resort in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. It was eventually transferred to my parents' private gallery ... where it remained prominently displayed for three decades," Villanueva says.

"URDUJA" by Antonio Gonzalo Dumlao (1954)

He received the the painting as a gift on his 47th birthday.

Baraan says the price offered for the painting is P600,000. "We are still negotiating. I think it's a good price for a rare and old painting by a famous artist of national and international prominence. I think this is very cheap," he says.

An old reproduction of the "Prinsesa Urduja," by Hermenegildo Amorsolo, hangs on the wall of the governor's office at the Capitol Annex.

In his blog (http://antoniodumlao.wordpress.com/), Dumlao's grandson, Oliver, says his grandfather, who studied at the University of the Philippines' School of Fine Arts in 1923, was also a famous restoration artist.

"When Juan Luna's 'Spoliarium' was stripped over from Spain, the canvas was rolled in three pieces so that the oil cracked and the work was badly damaged). Dumlao took up the major restoration job from July 1960 to 1961 at the Department of Foreign Affairs on Padre Faura. Dumlao also restored several other Lunas, Hidalgos, and Resurreccions," the young Dumlao says.

In 1979, Dumlao was invited to "Sesi Orisan in Luzonisan in ngayon mural, "Philippine Heroes," which was exhibited in the 1984 New York World's Fair.

Dumlao died in 1983.

Lucena mayoral row: Comelec takes back order

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Lawyer Hilmer Barbara Ruby Talaga reassumed her post on Monday after the Commission on Elections (Comelec) recalled its order last June 17 that ordered her out of office to make room for Vice Mayor Roderick Alcala.

Joaquin Buenaagua, Comelec chief in Lucena, delivered the Comelec order dated June 27 and signed by Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. to the city mayor's office. It was received by Talaga's executive assistant Lerry Papa.

The Supreme Court on June 21 issued a status quo ante order that stopped the ouster of Talaga.

Alcala said he would heed the Comelec order. "That's no problem with that. I'm always ready to return to my old post," he said.

He said his lawyer would file a petition at the Supreme Court to immediately resolve the main case that nullified the election and the proclamation of Talaga as stated by the Comelec en banc on May 20.

"For the peace of us all and the people of Lucena, we're praying that the honorable justices decide on the main case as soon as possible," Alcala said.

Philip Castillo, who lost the mayoral race to Talaga, had filed a separate petition at the Supreme Court to nullify Talaga's candidacy and seat her, hoping he would take over as mayor.

Castillo had said that since Talaga's candidacy was found by the Comelec to be defective, it only meant that he ran unopposed and should be declared winner.

He cited a similar case involving Comelec chair Jose Melo's term wherein the Comelec ruled that a candidate who got the second highest number of votes is deemed winner after the one declared before the first day.

The Comelec, however, said in its May 20 ruling that Alcala, being vice mayor, should replace the ousted mayor by law of succession. Comelec officials argued that since Castillo got 35 votes the second highest number of votes, it meant that he lost.

The Comelec had ruled that Barbara's candidacy to be treated when she substituted for her husband Ramon who has not withdrawn his certificate of candidacy when Barbara filed her own certificate of candidacy on May 4, 2010.

Ramon sought to run even after he had already reached the limit of three successive terms.

Comelec chair Brillantes, however, submitted a dissenting opinion saying the Barbara election was legal although were credited to her were actually votes for her husband Ramon.

In the final tally, Ramon received 44,699 votes while Castillo got 39,935. Based on existing election laws on substitution, votes cast for Ramon could be considered votes for Barbara.

Other contenders are Ron Archibald Quelma, who netted 854 last week, and Bernadine Galicano Cerdo, who scored 300 on April 15.

Isabel Dolmeritas Geraldez, who was born on Oct. 13, 1912, is now 98 years 10 days old.

The other nonagenarians in the town are Emilia Cleton Sison, 97, born on Jan. 22, 1914; Rufo Cenon Bantol, 96, Only 25, 1915; Constancia Caldoncillo Vs, April 16, 1916; Rogelio C. Catabay Carmona, 95, Dec. 8, 1916; Lourdes Indiana Mina, 95, May 25, 1917; Antonio Bustos, 95, June 17, 1917; Soledana de la Cruz, 95; and Josefina Cunha Tadeo, 95, June 13, 1918.

Emilia Chatsler's son, Gregorio, 80, says his mother has overcome long life as her lifestyle is typical of her village mates in the farming community of Bunlog.

Emilia is the oldest of nine siblings. She has outlived all of them except her youngest half-sister, who is now 70, Gregorio says.

"Maybe it is her diet, with her meals usually consisting of vegetables and fish, and rarely has meat. That is her secret," he said.

HOMETOWN Snapshot

In Pangasinan town, being 100-yr-old common

By Yolanda Serato
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BOLIL, Pangasinan—In this western Pangasinan town, at least three residents have breached the century mark, and their long lives have fascinated their children and relatives.

Nine other residents are to their 90s and would celebrate their 100th birthday in a few years.

Their stories have yielded the interest of their resident medicine Engr. Ma. Cristina Sy, 55, who looked for them and came up with a list that she posted on her Facebook account.

Engenio, who had compiled a list of resident achievers in her town, said she came up with the list of Bolil's elderly residents so she could honor them.

There is nothing common among these elderly, except that these have before 1914 been born through live would seem for their children and other relatives believe that their long lives run in their family.

The oldest in the group is Emelita Ribley Flandez, who turned 104 on March 7. She was born in 1907 in Bolig, the village where she still lives.

LOLA Emelita still crushes "Bulanog"

He says his mother has been smoking since he can remember, but "We have been telling her to stop smoking, but when we refuse to buy her a cigarette, she would get angry," he says.

His mother used to smoke rolled tobacco leaves, but has since switched to the cigarette brand "Bulanog."

Emelita still washes her clothes, walks around the house, but hardly visits her neighbors.

While her eyesight and hearing are gone, Emelita's memory is still sharp. Gregorio says the mother still remembers the names of her children and grandchildren. Flandez has six children, the oldest child had died), 28 grandchildren and 37 great grandchildren.

101 YEARS OLD Lola Juan Quelma

"She has no more medication of World War I, but she lives to tell stories about World War II. She ate rice when we evacuated to the mountains and when we had that day on a mountainside as we can have a sure to little," says Gregorio, who was in his teens during World War II.

Bonifacia Cenia, 98, youngest daughter of 101-year-old Quelma, says her father doesn't need help eating and walks around without aid.

She says her father eats plenty of vegetables, even as a boy. He needs still remote variety of rice and vegetables, with the occasional fish and meat.

"My father says he is already very old. But he never tells us anything about dying," she says.

Cops urge Quezon traders to hire private guards

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Police urged business owners to hire private guards for their establishments following the arrest of members of a robbery gang preying on gasoline stations in the several part of Quezon.

Senior Supt. Ericdenon Ver. Inspect. Quezon police chief, said gasoline stations and insurance shops, especially along the Maharlika Highway, were the recent targets of criminals preying on businesses in several areas.

"They were easy targets due to lack of security and the remoteness of their location," Velasquez said after the arrest of five suspects in a string of robberies in the province.

The suspects were arrested on Batangas town. One of them is a 14-year-old who police said was involved in at least 14 cases of robberies on gasoline stations, internet shops and residences in the towns of Tiaong, Candelaria, Sariaya, Tayabas, Dolores and the city.

SHAP
Strategic Hospital Alliance Program

MakatiMed's SHAP centers on Central Luzon

In its effort to reach patients in need of premium quality healthcare from almost every corner of the country, leading health institution, Makati Medical Center, launched its Strategic Hospital Alliance Program (SHAP) to establish affiliations with different hospitals around the country.

With numerous partner hospitals to date, MakatiMed's campaign continues with the signing of agreements between MakatiMed delegates and representatives from several partner hospitals in Central Luzon. These hospitals include: Angeles University Foundation Medical Center in Angeles City, Pampanga; Central Luzon Doctor's Hospital in Tarlac City; Holy Family Medical Center in Angeles City, Pampanga; Jesseva Medical Center in Tarlac; Mother of Perpetual Help Hospital in Angeles City; Mother Theresa of Calcutta Medical Center in San Fernando, Pampanga; Ramos General Hospital in Tarlac; Sacred Heart Hospital of Malolos, Inc. in Bulacan; Sarmo General Hospital in Bulacan; Subic Bay Metro Hospital in Castillejos, Tarlac; St. Joseph Hospital in Bataan; St. Raphael Foundation and Medical Center in Bhalahonan, Pampanga; Talon General Hospital also in Tarlac; VL Makabali Hospital in San Fernando, Pampanga; and Nueva Ecija Good Samaritan General Hospital in Nueva Ecija; and Bay Pointe Hospital and Medical Center in Subic Bay, Olongapo City.

Under the program, partner hospitals from varying parts of the country continue to be primary healthcare providers of their own patients. But patients in need of more complex health services and procedures can now get access to MakatiMed's more advanced laboratory, diagnostic and outpatient services through SHAP.

Lopez geothermal firm says it won't exceed limits of its site

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—The Energy Development Corp. (EDC) sought to give assurances that it would not go beyond its assigned area in Mt. Kanlaon to develop geothermal energy.

Noel G. Solongo, EDC assistant vice president for resource management, said the 123-hectare assigned to EDC outside a so-called buffer zone in Mt. Kanlaon was "sufficient to access geothermal resources given current technology." The site assigned to EDC is in Barangay Mailum, Bago City.

EDC earlier scheduled a test-pump shut-down of its plant in July for further resource study. The plant has a production capacity of 40 megawatts but it was only producing 8 to 9 MW.

The announcement of a shut-down prompted accusations from Church and environment groups that EDC would conduct geothermal exploration beyond its assigned site and try to move the 800, Kanlaon Natural Park.

Dwight A. Mauricio, EDC vice president for Southern and Northern Negros Geothermal, said EDC has replanted 460 ha inside the park even if it only used 12.5 ha.

EDC has planned seven to at least 900 ha of forests in Negros Occidental from 1999-2030 and would reclaim another 405 ha in Bayabay City and in the vicinity of Murcia and Don Salvador Benedicto in Negros Occidental in the next five years, Mauricio said.

The reforestation program, he said, is in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Negros Forest Ecological Foundation Inc.

Palawan folk rally vs DOJ ruling on slay

By Reinerpio D. Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—At least 2,000 people took part in a rally at the provincial capitol here to dramatize protest over a recent Department of Justice ruling that exonerated ex-Gov. Joel Reyes in the murder of broadcaster and environmentalist Gerry Ortega.

Pablo Ortega, the slain journalist's widow, said it was a prelude to the filing of a motion for reconsideration at the DOJ asking Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to reject as a resolution by a three-man prosecutors' panel that cleared Reyes and several other political figures of involvement in the murder of Gerry.

Palawan Bishop Pedro Arigo, according to Pablo, issued an appeal over a local radio station calling on Palawan folk to show their support for the campaign to press the DOJ and Malacañang to pursue the murder case against Reyes and other suspects.

"The clamor for justice is not just a cry of everyone who supported God's advocates," the bishop was quoted as saying. "It is also our responsibility as Christians to seek the truth and deny this travesty of justice."

"We continue to hold that the person God's here in the seat of the crime," said roaming priest Fr. Robert Reyes, who took part in the rally.

Father Reyes said the priest rallies would continue to build up pressure for the reversals of the DOJ ruling that cleared Reyes.

"Something fishy must have happened in the conditions of the DOJ," said lawyer Jocelino Alcantara, the Ortegas' counsel.

Aleya Alfaro, director of the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP), said the NUJP would lead a campaign in Manila to convince the DOJ to let the case against Reyes be tried in court.

"We are 130 persons behind the prosecution of the case," said Alfaro, speaking for the NUJP.

Rally organizers, led by members of the Justice for Gregg Movement, said they would stay the capitol as venue for the rally to protest the provincial government's "tacit endorsement" of the DOJ ruling that cleared Reyes, a political ally of the incumbent governor, Jaime Miras.

Miras and another provincial official had issued an affidavit saying they knew of no motive by Reyes to have Ortega murdered.

Ortega was shot dead on Jan. 24 by a hired gunman who was captured after the attack. Rodel Jo Abad, 21, who confessed to taking part in plotting Ortega's murder, testified that it was Reyes who ordered the killing.

The DOJ prosecutors' panel, however, ruled in favor of Reyes and exculpated him from the case, including former Marketplace Gov. Antonio Cisneros and Reyes' brother, Comm. Hayor Manjo Reyes.

Miras has kept mum on the DOJ resolution since it was released on June 21.

Bishops: Marriages are for men, women

By Jocelyn R. Uy

LEGAZPI CITY—The controversial gay session in Baguio City on Saturday, a Catholic bishop on Sunday called on the government to take action against same-sex marriages to curb such unconscionable illegal.

Baguio Bishop Carlito Cenzon said even Church-run Radio Veritas from the bishops' partners who supposedly orchestrated woes in a ceremony in Baguio were already "[sing] Baguio news already."

"A wedding is a holy union of a male and a female. It must be solemnized and registered with the civil registrar... those who put 'married' and who led the ceremony have moral jurisdiction," said Cenzon.

He urged the national government to take the necessary steps against same-sex marriages as they violate the Civil Code of the Philippines. "Even the Supreme local government is condemning this kind of act," added the bishop.

Archbishop Francisco Cruz Cruz said while homosexuals are integral members of society who must be respected, they must also be reminded about the "inherent and its main function of marriage."

"In the sphere of faith and morals, homosexuals must be loved such as by pursuing sin and reminding them of the pertinent and existent moral principles," said Cruz in a statement.

Cruz, pastoral vicar of the Diocese of Legazpi, Marinduque and Tiliboan, said nature itself has stipulated that marriage is between man and woman for the purpose of procreation and rearing of children.

"The conclusion from these observations is clear cut: There can be no marriage between two individuals of the same sex, there can be no sexual union between parties of the same sex and there can be no possibility of the birth of children between two persons of the same sex," he said.

Cruz also warned that the erosion of marriage, the values system and the family life of Filipinos will resemble if the country would condone other nations permitting same-sex marriages and even divorce.

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Court tells Stradcom to shape up, LTO to pay up

A DEKSION City court has upheld the Land Transportation Office's (LTO) move to bring the recurring stockholders of Stradcom Corp. to court to compel them to litigate their claim for the ownership of the company in order to determine where the LTO's payments to Stradcom should go.

However, Judge Edgar Dalmacio Santos, in an order dated June 23, also ordered the LTO to deposit the money owed Stradcom, the LTO's information technology provider, with the court for safekeeping.

The money, about P1.2 billion, which is being fought over by two rival claimants to Stradcom, is now deposited in an escrow account at the Land Bank of the Phil.

The two rival groups of Stradcom stockholders are led by Cezar Quintos-Jones, Stradcom president and CEO, and Jonathan Stambilla. The dispute came to a head last year when the Stambilla group forcibly took over the Stradcom offices in the LTO compound in Quezon City, disrupting LTO operations nationwide for several hours.

As a result, LTO Chief Virginia Torres refused to make payments to Stradcom until the ownership dispute was resolved.

After she was threatened with ban-ouster by the stockholders, Torres through the Office of the Solicitor General filed an interpleader suit with the court against the rival claimants to compel them to litigate their claims against each other.

The June 21 decision was in response to the Quintos group's motion asking the court to dismiss Torres' interpleader suit. The motion was dismissed for lack of merit.

Santos ruled that the rival claimants to Stradcom should first settle the dispute among themselves first before anything any payment from the LTO. He said their counter-claims against each other needed to go into a full-blown trial.

The court ordered the LTO through Torres to amend its original complaint and strike out the appeal for a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction.

It also directed both Stradcom claimants to file their answer to the amended interpleader suit, in which both parties will be compelled to argue their claim over the IT firm, within 15 days from receipt.

The court rejected the Quintos group's claim that the LTO had no authority to sue on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, that the unexplained or complaint failed to state a cause of action; that the court was the wrong venue; that LTO was liable for forum shopping; and that Torres had recognized Quintos as the owner of the IT firm.

The court said Torres was "exercising her proprietary functions" and that her official acts were "clothed with the presumption of regularity".

It said Torres and her office have no interest in the outcome in question considering her manifestation to deposit the funds with the court. That was a "sign of good faith" on the part of the LTO, the court said. Paolo G. Montecillo and Julie M. Aurelio

Handheld revolution in schools

By Tara Quintanilla

THE HANDHELD revolution is coming to a school near you.

Seeing the improved scores and attendance in target schools in the last eight years, the Department of Education (DepEd), telecommunications giant Globe, the Ayala Foundation and hardware maker Nokia yesterday announced the expansion of the "text2teach" program to 438 schools across the country.

Now in its fourth phase, "text2teach" trains English, Science and Math lessons into a fun multimedia experience for fifth and sixth grade students through audiovisual exercises downloadable to mobile phones.

"The main feature of this program is it makes learning more interesting. When we through texting classes, these kids learn more and you lessen the possibility of children dropping out. You have students wanting to go to school," said Education Undersecretary for Regional Operations Lina Rivera.

Introduced in 2008, the program was introduced in 200 public elementary schools around the country, many with poor facilities and overcrowded classrooms.

Since multimedia modules can be used for large classes, the program aims to improve learner retention by bringing to the students an engaging classroom experience.

"One of the first things we found out was the improvement in learning was much higher in under-resourced areas," said Ricky Lim-Ibe-ornes, Ayala Foundation president.

He said one school that showed improved student scores in the National Achievement Test, from an average of 35 percent before Text2Teach to 69 percent after, an improvement of 34 percent.

Pushing the program forward, the DepEd and its partner organizations yesterday signed a new agreement to bring it to more schools.

Corrections

IN THE JUNE 19 ISSUE, an article on Page 11 of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine—"Blind Music (Good) Oratorio"—carried an erroneous blurb: June Bacal was born...one shot to death...150 years ago.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 23 ISSUE, a Letter to the Editor on Page A16 of the Opinion section—"SEA fall guys against God's 'Ist Commandment'"...misstated that "Thou shalt not kill" is the sixth commandment of God. It is the fifth commandment. The sixth commandment is "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

The same letter misspelled Cecilia Jimenez-Ruiz's former surname. She was a comedian—not unlimited.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 23 ISSUE, Sofia Lillian Montiel's "Girl Stuff" column on Page A10 of the Opinion section—"Most Trending Award"—misspelled the first name of a chief justice. It's Reynato—not Reinato.—Peter.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the caption of a photo of a jurnero on Page B2-3 of the Property section misstated the name of an airbnb theater in Singapore. The urban district is Marina—not Mariana.—Tiny Ansale.

* * *

IN THE EARLIER EDITIONS OF THE JUNE 26 ISSUE, the caption of a front page photo of President Aquino distributing relief goods misstated the name of the tropical storm that recently caused flooding in Metro Manila and other parts of the country. The tropical storm is "Falcon"—not "Egay." The same error appeared on the caption of a photo of Cha'La Mhoe Dato on Page A10.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 26 ISSUE, an Inquirer Mindanao article on Page A6 of the Across the Nation section—"MILF leader seeks OIC appointment, defends it as part of Moro struggle"—misstated the government position held by Rodrigo Duterte. Duterte is the three-term—not mayor—of Davao City. His daughter, Sara Duterte, is the mayor of Davao City.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the caption of a photo of skeletal metal lines on Page C1 of the Lifestyle section misspelled the title of the story told in a thematic dinner hosted by the Dulfet Philippines. The story was titled "Emanculed"—not "Emaculada."

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Corr. Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati City, fax No. (02) 897-0732, or e-mail address: dailyinquirer@inquirer.net. Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Publisher, e-mail address: inquirer@inquirer.net, or fax No. (02) 896-6214. Mrs. Ines Fernandez Arcilla, Publisher

P-Noy: Issue of Marcos burial long settled by FVR

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE ISSUE of where and how to bury the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos had long been settled by the government, since the administration of Fidel V. Ramos, according to President Aquino.

In an interview with the reporters at the wake for Senator Josephine Ebdane Flores, Monday night, Mr. Aquino indicated that he would honor the Ramos administration's agreement with the Marcos family to bury the late strongman in his hometown of Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Mr. Aquino said it was Ramos as president who brokered the return of Marcos' remains from Hawaii to the Philippines.

There were no full military honors when the remains arrived in Laoag on Sept. 7, 1993, but 21 cohort generals who served under Marcos were present. Ramos was represented by his son, Rodney Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani was also there.

"They [sic] an agreement," Mr. Aquino said. "I don't remember the exact date—the late chief of staff at the time is in Davao now."

The President said he would not oppose military honors for Marcos.

"That was the commitment of President Ramos between the state and the [Marcos] family," he said. "So the decision, in effect, was already done before Erap got into office."

He said he was hoping the Marcos family would complete the last part of that agreement.

"Well, they already know our position and the public already knows [as well]. And we're actually waiting from the time that President Ramos gave them that agreement, and expecting that they will live up to that particular agreement," Mr. Aquino said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has said it would give full military honors to Marcos because he fought as a soldier for the country as World War II.

Vice President Jejomar Binay has said that Marcos deserved the honors.

Binay was assigned by Mr. Aquino to study the matter of allowing a Libingan ng mga Bayani burial for Marcos.

Binay recommended, after extensive consultations, that Marcos be finally laid to rest in his hometown but be given military honors.

INQUIRER

OPINION

Blind alley

IF PEOPLE expect Michael Ray Aquino to tell the truth about the killings of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver in 2000, they are bound to be disappointed. Extradited from the United States and now in the detention cell of the National Bureau of Investigation, Aquino has not given any indication that he will come clean on the allegations of his complicity in the murders.

EDITORIAL

It is a misnomer to read for him by his lawyer, he has denied any knowledge of the killings but in the same breath, cleared former President Joseph Estrada and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who have been suspected of having ordered the killings. It looks as if the Philippine government succeeded in having him extradited so that he could lead the investigators further down a blind alley.

It has been a 16-year-old blind alley. Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, were abducted in November 2000 in Makati City at the height of the impeachment trial of Estrada. Their charred remains were found in April the following year in a creek in Cavite and identified by forensic experts from dental records and personal items. Estrada has been linked to the murders because he allegedly blamed Dacer for the bad publicity he was getting. Lacson at that time was chief of the Philippine National Police and concurrent head of the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF). Estrada headed the task force when he was vice president during the Ramos administration, and Lacson was his deputy.

The PAOCTF has been linked since the start to the Dacer-Corbito killings. In May 2001, the Department of Justice charged 11 policemen with the double murder and twice-thwarted Senator Sen. Teofilo Wisa, head of PAOCTF-Visayas, as head of the group that abducted the victims. Wisa denied the charge, and in January 2003, he was shot dead in Tanza, Cavite. Also linked to the killings were subordinate PAOCTF operatives, among them Aquino and Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao II. Aquino and Dumlao fled the country at the height of the initial investigation. Aquino was arrested for unauthorized possession of US defense documents in 2005. Mancao was extradited in 2006 and filed an affidavit in which he claims to have heard Lacson giving Aquino the order for the killings. Lacson has denied the charge.

While Mancao has given authorities key leads, Aquino, it appears, has no beans to spill. But if he had no knowledge about the murders, then why did he flee to the US? He has characterized his "self-exile," in which he purportedly sought a career shift as a nurse, as "the most trying and most challenging three of my life." All of this he apparently suffered and endured because he saw, heard and knew nothing.

In contrast, Mancao has stood up and held fast to his testimony. He has expressed disappointment over Aquino's statement. "As the saying goes, 'Man only sees in part, but God sees the whole thing.'" Mancao said. "I know God knows what happened. I'll just anchor my strength and faith on him.... I know that truth will come out in time."

Estrada and Lacson aren't gloating about Aquino's sweeping clearance of them, but the former had already said before the extradition that Aquino's return "is favorable to me." The lawmaker who jumped the gun on the law by fleeing in January 2010 days before the DOJ filed murder charges against him has reason to be reassured. Under the new dispensation he has been rehabilitated and his fortunes have been revived. Since his former Senate colleague, President Aquino, came to power, he has come out of hiding, made broadsides at the former administration, which he accuses of trumping up the charges against him in connection with the Dacer-Corbito case, and rallied up loyal hordes in Senate colleagues to each again the right to be called "Pare Honor." The example of Lacson (and perhaps Aquino) should show it pays to run from the law and live a fugitive's life. Certainly in the case of the senator, it pays to be dishonorable.

While the DOJ's commitment to uncovering the whole truth about the 2000 murders must be supported, the extradition of Aquino and the return to power of Lacson indicate that the case is headed for an even more contentious phase in which strong-arm politics will play a part, as it has done in the past. Because it involves a former president and a sitting senator, the case has seen a tug of war of forces that not only promises a further protracted engagement, but also a polarization and perhaps, a stalemate. In short, it may be headed for limbo and stasis, which is the overarching story of the Philippine justice system.

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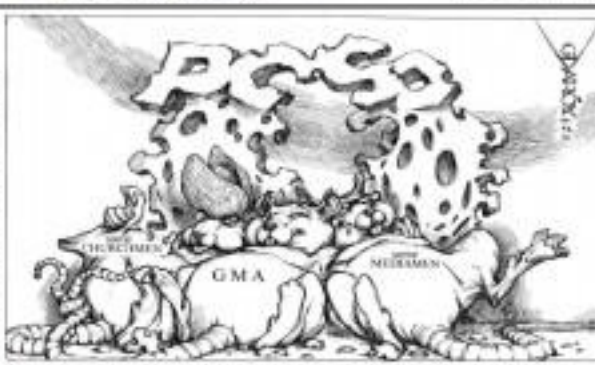


The assassination of Doc Gerry Ortega

AS I SEE IT

Sassi M. Cruz

TUESDAY'S and eighteen daughter of assistant naval radio broadcaster Gerry Ortega went to the Kapihan sa Armadia last Saturday to ask for the help of media in getting justice for him. They distributed copies of the resolution of a three-man panel of prosecutors of the Department of Justice that made a preliminary investigation of the case. It found probable cause against four of the accused but dismissed the charges against former lawyers Joel Nitura and Jose Carlos and four others. I don't understand it.

The four have been charged based on their confessions where they also named the true mastermind. Nitura and Carlos said four other co-conspirators, but whereas the prosecutors believed the confessions with regard to their participation in the crime, they didn't believe the four when they said where the participation of the others.

Ortega was also dead while living apartments above an "shop-stay" store in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, at around 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 24, 2011. Ten minutes later, after a brief chase by operatives of the police station of the tourist capital of that province, whose operation was called by the news of a fire much nearby, Nitura Bonoanan, alias "Nani" and "Ingot," was arrested. Nitura, who was then 17 years old, was still riding the road by the police. Bonoanan was brought to the Puerto Princesa Police Office where he made an extrajudicial confession and implicated Rodolfo D. Edural Jr., alias "Boknoy," Dennis C. Acuram, and Armando R. Sord, alias "Salbahe Sord."

On Jan. 25, 2011, Acuram, upon the instruction of the Bureau of Investigation, Puerto Princesa, surrendered. Lacson gave a sworn statement before special investigator Cedric Cardoso.

In July 28, 2011, Nitura was arraigned in Cuevas, Palawan, and was brought to Puerto Princesa where he made an extrajudicial confession.

Meantime, the PNP reassigned the gun used in the killing of Doc Gerry it was a .45 caliber pistol with serial No. 1127.06.78 registered to the name of Romeo M. Bonoanan, the former provincial administrator of Palawan.

On Feb. 7, 2011, Edural was arrested in connection, Quezon, in Puerto Princesa Kinser Edural Bagadiano. He was brought to Sill, Tall, Barbara the medical examination/confession the next day the implicated Nitura, Carlos, former Mayor Edward P. Hagedorn and Amor Saquilayan.

On Feb. 7, 2011, Bagadiano appeared before assistant prosecutor Eduardo M. Lopenia and wrote to a statement regarding the killing of Doc Gerry Two days later, this time at the Sill office, he swore to another statement before senior state charge Lopenia.

On Feb. 18, 2011 Sord surrendered and made an extrajudicial confession before the NBI Manila.

On Feb. 27, 2011, Edwin Avanila gave information to the NBI, where he made a sworn statement the next day.

In her complaint, Doc Gerry's widow, Dr. Nilda Gloria Bonoanan-Ortega, states that Governor Reyes masterminded the killing of Ortega because of his anti-corruption campaign and environmental activities in Palawan relating particularly to the tumbling by Reyes of the Malampaya funds during his incumbency as governor. She claims that Doc Gerry's criticisms on these issues cause Governor to ran for of Reyes in his bid for representative of the second district of Palawan.

Bonoanan, in his confession, said that he shot Doc Gerry with his cohort Acuram acting as informants and lookout; that Sord hired him to kill Doc Gerry for P250,000; and that Edural gave them a down payments of P150,000 each. He recounted that after he shot Doc Gerry he also shot at but completed as he thought he would shoot again. Then he ran away. Where he heard the news of the first shot, he drove the getaway motorcycle along the road and outside and running. He was arrested by policemen who were at the place where he ran to.

Edural, in his confession, stated that he was a former bodyguard of governor Carrion and Governor Reyes. In June 2010, Carrion, told him to "give a piece of his banner to Salvador Dacer, Dumlao "Boner," may pagsasabihin akong dalawang out of this budget na P600,000 at ("...nonsignator ko po kung magbibigay ng P300,000 ("Carrion had whispered to him, "Isabotahe mga media sa Palawan").

On July 4, 2010, Edural went to Palawan on reports to Reyes who asked him if he had been told about the plot to kill two media men in Palawan. When he said yes, Reyes told him to get somebody to do the killing as he (Edural) was identified with him.

In December 2010, Reyes gave Edural P600,000 for mobilization of enemies and P50,000 for the purchase of a gun, as well as P250,000 for expenses and for the three planning of Doc Gerry.

Edural hired Sord from Bagadiano, Quezon, and Avanila. Edural gave them P20,000 each plus P25,000 for expenses and for the three planning of Doc Gerry.

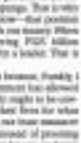
Edural, Sord and Avanila, armed with a .357 caliber pistol, left for Puerto Princesa. A few days later, Edural called up Bagadiano and asked him to buy bullets for a .38 caliber pistol. In the meantime, he received a call from Sord who told him that he and Avanila could not carry out the plot as they were ahead to do so. They went back to see Edural in Dagdag, bringing with them the .357 caliber pistol.

Sord recommended Bonoanan who was willing to do the job.

(To be continued)

Why haven't we done that yet?

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

I'M GLAD Marijoy Aaino has come out to reveal when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her people did exactly to the PCSO, the one institution tasked with catching to the end of the peso. That was to come to the aid of themselves and make themselves rich.

What they did exactly was to each the ring do with a vacuum cleaner, hosting the agency P4 billion in debt, attach is a year's worth of charity for its poor and sick. "They took P4,000 to the general."

They did that specifically by raising sports bond funds and charity funds, a thing expressly forbidden by law and the PCSO mandate. They exacted into addition pesos solicitors with fictitious media groups and issued hundreds of postdated checks to cover them. They ended up with P1 billion in debts to those media groups and P2 billion in obligations to hospitals.

Universally seen as illegitimate, the Aaroyo regime resorted to PR to keep itself afloat, which was what those "media groups" were for, though doubtless they included functioning journalists—"practicing" only in the formal, and not substantial, sense of the word. They were PR groups. "Aroyo appointed a lot of media members on the board, and they brought in a lot of contracts, which is precisely why the ad budget blew up," During Aaroyo's last term these the ad budget were up to P1.7 billion. Those "media members" have a lot to answer for.

But, as this shows, the philosophy of the Aaroyo government was simple: "Those who can't do, loans." Or law enforcement—and rapacity—can't do so.

I'm glad as well that Jinnis Abad has answered Aaroyo's charge that "nobody's home" in government, presumably during Typhoon Ondoy the economic gains of her term. Abad gains? Abad asked. "The people's gains or her gains?"

In the case of the National Food Authority, it from skyrocketed from P18 billion when she took over from Ebdane to P176.8 billion when he left her year. Some P133 billion of that came during the last couple of years of Aaroyo's term, when this country broke on a rice buying binge.

Into the NBN project, the rice was overpriced, courtesy of Aaroyo's people whose negotiating skills consisted of shelving up prices rather than bringing them down. The Abad formula: Set deposited of turning short government.

Aaroyo herself included 70 percent of the P4 billion in interest from Pampanga. That is why she is a multibillionaire right now—that explains unchangle and positive with our money When she left, she left a staggering P025 billion deficit, the biggest ever left to a leader. That is 3.9 percent of GDP.

Pegged they're saying his because, frankly, I can't understand why government has allowed this vicious bunch, who really ought to be cowering in shame or fear for their lives for what they've done to the country, not even manacled to a good frame of its mouth, instead of pointing and snickering their pretentious fingers at others. Instead, as part of the deliberate "this leave to wonder what kind of Communications Group if" boy has that has been content merely to tender its indignation at the charges, deny, mun, shrug and generally behave as if they're the victims when they spent their months to before the all witness list is, "That's too true is all"?

Of course, government ought to be ashamed too. Of course, there's much to apologize, kokim, Authorities" too. But in the very least, Aquino and his people can't be any position to do the criticizing. They have no right. They have earned the right only to do time for their crimes. As the very least, even if it were true that there's "nobody home" in Malacañang Palace, it is not the equal of "nobody home" today, it is infinitely better to have nobody home than to have the Abyan Robot going there. Which was what we had over the last decade.

I'll raise "nobody home" to "nothing left" anytime.

I'm especially glad in the case of the PCSO that Jinki has done that because it explains a good deal of things. I myself have been wondering all this time where the slimy bloodsucking vermin and his bunch of media hacks are getting the money to pay for spaces in reputable broadsheets and reputable networks to praise and jet their disreputable crimes. It cannot be a coincidence that those who try to exact their keep in media, and even those who are so dense what their fees to expose corruption in high places, to know that their media are harboring, if not indeed being owned by, creatures who can just as through their teeth, who are just as corrupt as the people in high places they are calling upon.

But which brings me back to a point I've been making all this time. If heroes has done this to the PCSO, if heroes has done this to the MBA, if heroes has done this to the entire government, to hell has government not filed a single charge of corruption against her? Why is hell has government not attempted to seize the ill-gotten wealth of the crooks, which can run into the billions, and which alone should go a long way toward solving many more pesos and sick more charity, the rate doing the treacherous of corruption in the PCSO are accusing its current chief of race preaching? Why is hell no those same crooks and banksters still free to torment the world with their machinations, to act as though nothing has changed, and indeed to prove that truly there's nobody home in Malacañang by being able to say that with impunity?

All that money gone, all those lives gone, all those years gone, and we are not even to punish the criminals with prejudice? This is ridiculous. It's not just enough to put chain in their place, it's time we removed them to the place they deserve to be. It's not just enough to cite the attendant duty tasks, it's time we gave them the sentences they so duly manage above. It's not just enough to call against them, it's time to jail them.

Why haven't we done that yet?

China's worst-kept secret naval weapon

SINGAPORE—On June 8, the Hong Kong Commercial Daily News reported that Chen Bingde, chief of the General Staff of the People Liberation Army (PLA), had confirmed that China was building an aircraft carrier, marking the first acknowledgement of the ship's existence by the country's security officials.

The newspaper quoted General Chen as saying that the 300 meter refurbished former carrier "is being built, but it has not been completed." The paper quoted another source as saying that, when finished, the carrier would be launched by the end of June at the earliest, a year earlier than 10 military analysts expected.

The confirmation came on the same day China stepped up resistance of the Philippines's claims of sovereignty over disputed areas in the South China Sea, calling on Manila to stop left-wing air to air investigate with irresponsible claims over the Spratly Islands. "China demands that the Philippines stop unilateral actions that damage China's territorial sovereignty and avoid complicating the expansion and complication of the South China Sea dispute, and stop taking irresponsible statements that are inconsistent with facts," said foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Lei. The statement over China's most realistic in media of territorial claims in the South China Sea, and is aimed at the increasing assertiveness of Chinese ships in the region since last March.

The Philippines has accused China of increasing intrusions in territory, citing its presence, including one in March in which two Chinese ships tried to chase a Philippine survey ship.

The timing of the confirmation of the prospective launch of China's first aircraft carrier, in the wake of the heightening tensions among countries with claims to the South China Sea, comes as four in the region of further Chinese aggressive naval actions to try to intimidate and win territorial by rival claimants countries for maritime and oil resources underneath the disputed waters.

Efforts of China in develop what many have

ANALYSIS

Amanda Drewniak

project to military power over the region and to establish its sphere of influence over its smaller neighboring countries nervous. The rush to launch the carrier has been regarded as part of the Chinese plan of dominion over the South China Sea.

China said recently has been successive power the completion of the ship, but it is also its military's more large assets. Military analysts regard the carrier as the most visible symbol of its rising military power; it also highlights the maritime action limit to the region limited by the ability for control over territories and strategic navigation routes in the region.

According to a BBC News report from Taiwan, a naval base, the 60,000 ton warship is being outfitted for a launch in time for the 6 in anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The report said the Beijing site is scheduled in the port of Dalian, and is almost set to sail. Although the PLA has been reluctant to say anything about its first aircraft carrier, as it has for its classified service, its existence is no longer a secret. "It is clear for all to see, somewhat interagencies, what's behind Japan's fire suppressor," said the BBC report. The huge carrier "has been seen in the making, and it is an unmistakable sign of China's expanding military and its desire to project Chinese power further beyond its borders than ever before."

The aircraft carrier is a symbol of the power of our navy," said Gen. Xu Guoyou, now retired but also advises China's government on its military modernization programs. "China should at least be on the same level as other permanent members of our UN Security Council who have carriers.... It's also a symbol of deterrence. It's like saying, 'Don't mess with me, don't think we can bully me.' So it's natural for us to make a carrier, certainly think it's an urgent need for China [this year]."

But that's not the way the smaller neighbors think of China's current naval power. In their view is bullying and using an existing their ground, among them the Vietnamese and Filipinos who have denounced increased incursions Chinese vessels in calculated contested waters.

According to BBC News, the carrier was constructed in the 1980s for the navy of the former Soviet Union, Ukraine, before selling it was never completed. When the Soviet Union collapsed, the unfinished ship was sold to China as scrap, but was then refurbished in the Ukraine. Reports say it will be named Shi Lang, after the Chinese admiral who conquered Taiwan in the 17th century.

Jane Naval Intern senior analyst at the International Assessment Strategy Center, a think tank in the US, says China has big naval ambitions. "It is going to have aircraft comparable in capability to the newer fighters on American fighter decks to about in three years. The aircraft on its is part of the Chinese's of its 3000 homeland missions that the PLA will increasingly defend in the Communist Party's interests outside of China. By the 2020s, China sees military that will be globally deployable and will be able to challenge America's military when they need to be challenged."

Some analysts say China's decision to build its own carrier is to send a message to the US and its allies in the US Naval College. "China does not want to start a war, but rather seeks to wield its growing military might to 'win without fighting' by deterring actions that it views as detrimental to its core national interests."

The carrier is expected to be due to begin sea trials in the summer. "This operational it would give the Chinese Navy a significant new capability in its continuing efforts to its maritime neighbors," said the BBC report.

Helping 'nanays' survive

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Undersecretary of Health Dr. Ted Herbosa, who was present at the media forum, believes this goal is "attainable" although we perhaps by 2015. But he also questions the 300B figure of 162, saying the "real" number is lower. He answers 71.6 and 96. Does Herbosa mean the current estimate is nearly double the actual number?

But an older expert here said, even at 300B of 52 a call "52 unserved deaths not many." The statistic is so abstract, we're not moved. Especially as living-born MMR tends to that of the developed world.

As it is, a number who gives birth in the National Capital Region is four times as likely as any birth in a health facility as a mother in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. As to Kunin puts it: "The percentage of births delivered by a skilled provider increases with the mother's level of education and wealth, whether in urban areas, 79 percent of births are attended by skilled professionals, compared to 49 percent in rural areas."

* * *

FORTUNATELY, the government through the Department of Health has been enacting policies and implementing programs to save the lives of mothers and newborns.

Beginning 2008, the DOH issued an administrative order (Administrative Order 2008-0029) requiring every city/municipality to establish and implement the following principles: every pregnant is wanted, planned and supported; every pregnant is subjected to a minimum of four prenatal visits; every delivery is facility based and managed by skilled birth attendants; and every mother and baby pair receives proper postpartum and postnatal care with emphasis on the first week in order to prevent maternal and newborn deaths.

Implementing these principles at each local government unit (LGU) level are the Regional Inter-Agency Committee on Health and Development (RIACHD) and the Provincial Inter-Agency Committee on Health and Development (PIACHD). Both are tasked with the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programs to improve the health and development of women, children and adolescents.

Other measures include the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation's (PhilHealth) Maternity Care Package to the mother and child care/risk package for the baby.

Pending these principles to work has meant setting maternal and child health targets in most unfortunate goals, i.e. increasing modern contraceptive use from 36 percent to 50 percent, increasing skilled birth attendance from 49 percent to 80 percent. It also means setting up or funding centers for emergency obstetric and newborn care, including hiring more staff, training more staff, and improving the overall standards of care.

* * *

MORE important, the DOH is matching one to the private sector for help in achieving the goal of saving the lives of mothers and babies.

The "Safe Motherhood Initiative" is the "Safe Baby Express Donation Concern," or safe birthing centers, a joint project of Pfizer Inc. for the generic medicines company of Pfizer and the DOH. The first such "Kalinga" is to play on "Happy Babies" or mother's home will be inaugurated in Mandaluyong. Consistent. You receive as a model for other such centers in the 16 provinces with the highest rates of maternal mortality.

Concerned at three females die out of a traditional lying-in center, the "Kalinga" will be constructed around a core of a used shopping mall, which will provide basic clinical and emergency obstetric care and two beds for delivery. An artist's concept shows a modern structure with bright, lively colors, a green roof and plenty of space for family members to wait while the mother delivers.

Everything about the "Safe Baby" was conceived to make it more attractive to mothers, with the aim of making them "feel at home," since many mothers complain about the inconvenience and lack of facilities in the current maternal health care facilities.

At the same time, Pfizer Baby Bottle will embark on a social marketing campaign designed to overcome mothers' reluctance to give birth in health facilities rather than at home (traditional practices), and convince them that it's worth their while (and their lives) to give birth in a place that assures them safety, cleanliness and convenience.

'Pulex irritans', 'Ectobia Germanica'

FILIPINO-AMERICAN Friendship Day is celebrated every year on the fourth of July, the same date that we used to celebrate Philippine Independence Day (we think). Well, on Philippine Independence Day I attended in the US Embassy ballroom on Roxas Boulevard, a wonderfully designed place with large windows overlooking Manila Bay, and with wide-screen televisions hung from the ceiling, seats in the hall reminded a room in the White House reception is familiar with from photos or movies. So there is a typical Filipino celebration and we get the hospitality of the Embassy while others who have to work in offices or in their homes in the provinces missing demonstrations, parades, and flag hanging outside the Embassy and are close around to the hospitality of Manila's Pasay, the first line of defense against the high traffic that confronts the motorist in the Philippines.

Filipino-Americans has a soft spot for the first group of American soldiers who traveled to the Philippines aboard the transport SS Thomas in 1903, being the group that was the first to be welcomed as equal to our day. The pioneering group of first soldiers are collectively known as the "Thomasites" in memory of the boat that brought them here. Many of them are buried in a special spot in the Manila National Cemetery, and were still remembered and honored 108 years since they set foot on our archipelago.

The students came from all over the US: it was the government's policy at that time to send teachers to San Francisco, it took 30 days to travel from San Francisco to Manila, and at $1,000 a day the trip cost $60,000, modern (1903) as follows: wages $15,000, food and water $25,000, provisions and its $20,000. Their mission was also to immerse in local. So that was not enough to immerse themselves in what had a reputation to be basically 100 miles of hot sun, loaded on the Thomas. The route from SFO to Honolulu to Manila is very much the same route followed by people who take airplanes.

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

Food served all right and based on a typical menu. For breakfast they had, served prunes, corn beef steak, and fish cakes, broiled ruby steak and mutton with sauce, tomato hash, fried liver and bacon, potato omelet, sausages, bread, jelly, butter, and coffee, and on Sundays. They had pancakes, sweetmeats, etc. A menu here from a gran advertiser for many of these young men and women to go half the world away in a minute to reach safety and different people.

"The ever present home fly, Musca domestica, whose presence is nothing short of a menace to the early morn arousal time from his peaceful and dreamy slumbers only to realize him while the pesky fly was miles away. The fly was certainly very much alive from the new table, and I opined that his equal scarcity on deck was due largely to a feeling that the vessel here safe passage to the Orient by the new territory where a new gun of mixed might have him to eat.

"The German cockroach, scientific the name for long, fearless persuasion, may be said so far in full possession of the ship, above master and crew, above the captain of the port passengers, above the vigil of the chief steward and his assistants, and above the intimidation of rifle-fire. This is the principle of walking abroad at noonday among the ship's crew, the fruit, the cracker, and whatever is to be worked. Here the office of the quartermaster is not saved from the intrusion of this little pest, for he will frequently be seen walking over without paper upon the desk, stopping occasionally and staring at the writer, as if to say, 'Come, come, this will never do.' Of the cockroach

A wish list and measure of President's polestar

LETTERS

I SHARE former Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban's insight and hope regarding President Aquino's pronouncement in his July 4th, which would essentially "restrain (the) local Executive executive officials, officers and responsible actions"...the economic history (highest good) to any judicial decision" since.

As the President's team has begun to handle duties as much, I'd like to enter a very simple prayer, or an ordinary wish list of sorts, in that he may fulfill the promises, even if only step by step.

1. May government realize that public transportation costs eat up a sizable chunk of the income of a minimum wage earner because of the system's inefficiency. Government should be able to oversee or incentivized public utilities like manned measures of assured seats in buses, jeepneys, taxis, tricycles and all other public transportation, on whose gross inefficiency or the efficacy regulated fares is pegged.

As it should find out that the system's risk of loss due to divided into the number of passengers, plus a reasonable margin, should amount to about 70 percent less than the current fare. May powers-that-be find the wisdom to confront the challenge of beneficially lowering the costs that say 80 percent of the citizens on the road are private and 20 percent public, while the average ridership of the former is only one and one-half persons.

And an efficiency in public conveyance may have to mean comfort, safety, predictability and an environment where government find the most apt points to encourage the private number of passengers on board private vehicles to take the "New Public Transportation System" that is sustainable and ecologically sincere and essentially based on the minimum means. Those who have less is where those have more to public needs!

2. May government also realize that the national budget

Conflicting signals from U.S. China on Spratlys

LAST MAY 20, Jane Shenberg, vice chair of the 11th National People's Congress of China, on a country call on Phil. President Benigno Aquino Binay, assured the visiting country that the "territorial dispute over the Spratly Islands will not adversely affect relations between the two countries." ("Chinese official assures Philippines on Spratlys," Inquirer, 5/26/11)

The meeting reportedly touched on the islands. It came down: How would China, in close terms, support President Aquino and Filipinos' leverage with that the dispute be resolved fairly through talks. The moves base 7,000 may less sovereignty to cancel islands from Kalayaan to Ayungin Shoal...as Chinese officials and...by example.

And as these wishes do not require budget wherewithal, they are by no stretches measure of the President's powers.

—RENATO PINERA JR., president, Citizens' Organizations Concerned with Advancing Philippine Environmental Sustainability (CCOAP) and president, Philippine Society for Clean Air (PSCA)
11-07 Wallace St., Maia Alta Subd., Dalig, Antipolo City

French Senate on a G8 trip, AP Times correctly asked for "specifics" on how any long time ally would put the Philippines. ("Chinese senate specifics on how EE will help PH," Inquirer, 6/ 20/11).

The resolution of the Spratlys is China's only, and the Philippines' rejection is unprofitable too. And no one ever wants the prospect of the United States implicitly invoking, publicly or privately, the military and defense pacts. Preventing the situation from reaching that stage should be a priority for both countries.

On the basis of my only the deep sea than land Filipinos to both these issues and Chinese, we seem an economic approach—favorable trade agreements on tourism, guidelines, topic. Such behaviors that generate reasonable labor and employment. From China, trade threshold and ZTE, analyses for trade and communications, and consider mainland tourists coming in droves. The Philippines also we have declared the Spratlys the Spratlys. We do we want resources!

—MANUEL L. QUEZON III
manuelbquezon@yahoo.com

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Higher fees for slow computerized service

SEVEN BUREAUCRACY of Deeds offices announced the computerized processing for the issuance Transfer Certificates of Title (TCT) is being introduced, therefore, "Please bear with us," Sorry for any inconvenience," and it can take some 20 working days of lease where—meaning, no commitments—before new titles can be issued, and should there be computer glitches, like the cancer one that lasted two days, nobody would blame it since the whole machine will go for any computer issues!

By the first, collected up from, and the last so full and have increased. A big share of this fee is for IT service, presumably going to the computerization service process; Includes, the entire existing record to insure uninterrupted conveyance or the Land Transportation Office.

When one is given an assessment, he can do nothing else but pay the fee schedule is posted anywhere but the public's information. Is the public not entitled to know the cost of the service?

And there are multiple documentary requirements asking clients to photocopy this and that, get certified true copies, with LRA stamping their originals. And when one has to go to a number of Registry of Deeds offices requiring the same documents, he has to submit those original certified true copies. It has changed for every certified true copy, and it makes them to come back because the computer cannot be trashed. In my my case, I was willing go back after three to five days for my copies. Shouldn't computerization get things done faster instead of putting up roadblocks?

I understand that the transferees from the old manual system to computerization requires some adjustments. I submitted my documents to the Quezon City RD on May 16, 2011 and to the Caloocan City RD on May 27, 2011. On June 16, 2011, I was able to receive the new transfer certificates of title (Caption) for. I didn't make any follow up with the Caloocan RD the week I was told the documents was ready. It was available when I went to get it, seemingly in processing taking a shorter period than the 20 or so working days I was told it would take. But I had extra help. Many ordinary time who don't and have only themselves to depend on.

There is need for the LRA to see how it delivers on service to the public and justify all the fees it is charging. Efficiency and transparency are the call of the day.

—RAMON L. SIOSIA,
Quezon City

Easy as flicking finger

YELLOW HAMMER Inquirer, agreed failed to measure to its issue Business, 6/7/11) that the only real opportunities in the acquisition by Ayala of rival carrier Wireless and is Spitz...the chief bargain wherein company to the Digitel shares.

Not perfectly understand the reason for the omission. For had Agreed mentioned Spitz, that his premise that the Ayala/Mobile-Inc. merger would lead to a monopoly would crumble.

In the same vein, in our country no measuring can resist from the PLDT/Digitel dual because of the presence of Globe and smart, or fast-emerging competitors that take advantage of new technologies like voice over here...or protocol (VOIP) and internet based that facilities.

Contrary to Globe's claim, a merged PLDT and Digitel cannot really distance prices because consumers can easily migrate to Globe because, for one, since mobile and wireless internet users in the country are using prepaid services, they can subscribe to more than one cards willing for as low as P20 apiece, charging from one network to another is as simple as flicking one's finger. In no manner how big a voice bandwidth, it cannot price itself out of the market.

And there's one more thing that Agreed failed to mention. That is that Sprite also tried to acquire T-Mobile (but has lost out to SUN).

Sounds familiar, isn't it? Isn't it a fact that Globe is now making noises against the PLDT-Digitel deal after Globe tried but failed to buy Digitel out? Why is it okay for Globe to buy Digitel and not for PLDT to acquire Digitel?

—LAURENCE GALANG,
rosecalang@gmail.com

PH-US defense pact doesn't apply in Spratlys dispute, says ex-UP law dean

By Jaime M. Aurelio

THE PHILIPPINE-US mutual defense pact will not apply in the country's dispute with China over potentially oil-rich islets in the West Philippine (South China) Sea, a former University of the Philippines (UP) law dean said yesterday.

Speaking at a forum in UP Diliman, Quezon City, Avelino Agabin said a reading of the "fine print" of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty would show that the United States would not automatically come to the defense of the Philippines in cases of hostilities with China.

"If you read the fine print of the treaty, we'll see that the US commitment is that they are with us are 'purely illusory,'" he said.

Article IV of the treaty says that in case of an armed attack in the Pacific, either party would act "to meet the common dangers in accordance with its constitutional processes."

'Constitutional processes'

Agabin said "constitutional processes" means the US president must first consult with Congress before "introducing" the US Armed Forces into any hostility.

Not being a "self-executing treaty," the 1951 pact is not binding on the US unless its Congress "decides to give it life" by enacting an implementing law, Agabin said.

China and the Philippines are among six Asian countries claiming ownership, wholly or in part, of the Spratly islands, thought to be rich oil and minerals.

Agabin said no law is passed in preparation for boat duties was the announcer the Philippines could get from the US.

"I don't think the US will send its troops in case of hostilities with China," Agabin said.

Increased aid

Speaking before the Management Association of the Philippines yesterday, US Ambassador to Manila Harry Thomas Jr. reaffirmed his country's long-standing alliance with the Philippines.

Thomas also said that no less than President Barack Obama had assured the Philippines at one of four nations that would receive enhanced economic support in the coming years, including military hardware.

"We stand by our commitments under the Mutual Defense Treaty," he said, adding: "Standing by your friends—that's integrity. That's the principle we uphold."

Thomas pointed out that the Philippines had received more military aid from the US than any other nation in Southeast Asia over the last decade and will likely continue to do so in the near future. With a report from Dawn L. Lucas

China's growing military clout worries Asian neighbors

BEIJING—China's reported launch soon of its first aircraft carrier will add to a growing military clout just as older powers in Asia are becoming concern about Beijing's more strident claims over disputed seas in the region.

In practical terms, though, it is likely to take the Chinese Navy years to have a credible carrier operation in waters away, which have lengthy lines the claimant of the US Navy since World War II.

The Soviet Soviet carrier, originally destined to become a floating casino, is part of President Hu Jintao's push to modernize the army and would be presented to the navy's anniversary on April 23 to coincide with the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party on July 1.

China is already busy upgrading its destroyers and submarines to outfit further out on the battles, building a "blue water" navy to project power far from its shores and to protect the sea lanes on which its trade-reliant economy depends.

An aircraft carrier fits neatly into that strategy. It could end up being based in the southern Chinese province of Hainan, which sits strategically atop the disputed and potentially energy-rich West Philippine (South China) Sea.

Signal to Hanoi, Manila

"It will be the clearest possible signal that China intends to operate in sea in a sustained fashion," said Dean Cheng, a China security expert at the Washington-based Heritage Foundation.

"Given the ongoing tensions in the South China Sea, it is an unmistakable signal to Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, as well as Hanoi and any other regional capitals that the Chinese are serious when they describe their maritime territories as 'blue soil,'" he added.

"Indeed, given the dying tensions, this is something that can be expected to further up tensions."

Other powers in Asia are already alarmed as China's growing military presence—defense spending is growing fast and in August it made public for the first test flight of the J-20 stealth fighter jet.

Not a threat

The 300-meter Varyag is undergoing refit at a naval base called Dalian in northeastern city Dalian, eastern Liaoning Province.

A Chinese firm bought the then-engineless Varyag from Ukraine in 1998 for $20 million, planning to convert it into a floating casino in Macau, but it then ended up in the hands of China's military.

China says it needs to upgrade its outmoded forces and that its plans are not a threat to any country pointing out that its defense budget is far lower than the United States. Reuters

Asian war feared over Spratlys row

Passage 41

Both the Philippines and United States emphasized the training was an annual one aimed at strengthening defense ties, and not linked to the rising assertiveness of Manila about allegedly aggressive Chinese actions in the potentially resource-rich Spratly Islands.

"Cobra Gold was planned to advance... the issue in the South China Sea started in February," Philippine Navy vice commander Rear Adm. Dioscoro Cortez said at the opening ceremony. "Cobra has nothing to do with the issue."

Nevertheless, the exercises were portrayed as a show of unity between the Philippines and its far-away colonial ruler.

'Enduring commitment'

"The US and the Philippines are allies and that is the strongest and most enduring commitment the two nations have made," the commander of the US 7th Fleet, Vice Adm. Jacob Van Dunkirk, said.

Our alliance is underpinned by a deep and abiding US interest in the freedom and security of the Republic of the Philippines."

Beckett stressed the exercise "has nothing to do with the Spratlys."

He said it was the second such exercise held by the two allies "but this situation is more complex." He did not elaborate.

Tuesday's opening ceremony took place at a military base in Puerto Princesa, the capital of Palawan province, a narrow island that divides the West Philippine Sea and the Sulu Sea.

About 800 US soldiers are involved, as well as the two guided missile destroyers and a salvage ship. They will join a Philippine fleet of mainly World War II warships.

Risk-taking behavior

As the exercises got underway an Australian think tank warned risks were growing like incidents at sea involving China that could spark a war in Asia, particularly if coming to the US and Russia and other powers.

The Lowy Institute said in a report that the Chinese military's risk-taking behavior in the seas, along with the country's resource needs and greater assertiveness, had raised the chances of an armed conflict.

"The sea lanes of Indo-Pacific Asia are becoming more crowded, contested and vulnerable to armed strife. Naval and air forces are being strengthened amid declining relative to economic strategic weight," said from Barry Blechtell and Rachel Heiter in the news.

"Chinese frictions with the United States, Japan and India are likely to persist and increase, as the number and tempo of encounters increase, so does the likelihood that an episode will escalate to armed confrontation, diplomatic crisis or possibly even conflict," the report said.

Aquino call for help

In Washington, the US has on passed on Monday a resolution that deplored China's use of force against Vietnamese and Philippine ships.

Sen. Jim Webb, chair of an East Asian and Pacific affairs subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said "a growing number of nations around the South China Sea are now voicing serious concerns about China's pattern of intimidation."

President Aquino this month called for US help in containing China's ambitions, saying his country was too weak to stand up to the Chinese alone.

Ms. Aquino made his plea after accusing China of forcing at least seven vessels' members in the disputed Spratly waters, including one in which a Chinese vessel allegedly opened fire on Filipino fishermen.

He also accused China of breaking international rules by entering the Philippines' EEZ without seeking permission earlier this month.

Clinton pledge

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton last week offered the Philippines some comfort, pledging that the superpower would help to modernize the underequipped Philippine military.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan have overlapping claims to parts of the West Philippine Sea, which is believed to have vast oil and gas deposits, while its shipping lanes are vital for global trade. Reuters/Inq, Analysis/Inquirer Lauren; AFP and Reuters

Angry Freddie calls NBI 'evil'

From page A1

and Hubert Webb and five other scions of socialite families of the murder of Ilonokila Manotok, 47, and her daughters Carmela, 18, and Jennifer, 7, in their Pembagsac City home on June 18, 1991.

Why only now?

The NBI yesterday presented to the Department of Justice the results of its reinvestigation showing that Hubert Webb was in the country, and not in the United States, when the Manotoks were murdered. (See banner story.)

It said it had seven witnesses against Hubert Webb.

The findings were presented on Tuesday, two days before the 20-year period of prescription of for the filing of a case against new suspects ends on June 30.

By unsurprised, Freddie Webb said it was difficult to rely on "incognito" witnesses who could not even be subjected to cross-examination.

FREDDIE WEBB and son Hubert: Why only in the last two minutes of the ball game?

He said that like Albers, those seven witnesses could be privileged of the NBI.

Webb also wondered why the seven witnesses had never come forward.

"They had 20 years to testify. Why only in the last two minutes of the ball game?" said the former basketball star.

"Those people are so duck. What they are doing is gross," he added, and reiterated that his family was holding documents proving that his son entered the United States on March 6, 1992, and returned home on Oct. 27, 1992.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

THE SUPREME Court on Dec. 14, 2010, acquitted Hubert Webb and six others in connection with the Ilonokila massacre, citing the failure of the prosecution to prove their guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

In his sentence, Webb claimed he was in Anaheim Hills, California, when the crime happened on June 18, 1991.

Webb said he left for San Francisco on March 6, 1991, and returned to the Philippines on Oct. 27, 1992, presenting documents and witnesses to support his claim.

The high court in its decision said that "no one has come up with a logical and plausible answer" to address questions, such as: "How could Webb be a foreign airlines' passenger manifest, officially filed in the Philippines and at the airports in the US that had his name on them? How could Webb fix with the BI immigration's record before those two dates as the record of his travels as well as those two dates when he supposedly departed in secret from the US to commit the crime in the Philippines and then return there?"

Among the documents Webb presented was a photocopy of his passport with Philippine immigration stamps of his departure and arrival. He claims also produced a US immigration certification and a computer print-out of his arrival and departure authenticated by the Office of the US Attorney General and the State Department.

Other documents the defense submitted was a videotape recording of his Disneyland trip on July 3, 1991; car rental receipt issued by a store in which he purchased a bicycle on June 30, 1991; his California Driver's license issued on June 14, 1991; and a passenger manifest, along with tickets issued to him.

A number of his relatives and family friends also testified to have been with Webb at one point or another during his trip to the United States, or have knowledge of it.

Among those who testified was then practicing lawyer and now Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, who said he had a conversation with Webb's father, who said he was calling from Anaheim, where he and his wife went to look for a doctor for Hubert. The conversation was said to have taken place on June 29, 1991 between 10 and 11 a.m.

The high court explained that Webb's documented alibi remained unshaken after its testimony not only with respect to his not also with respect to his conviction. "Webb's perfidious leave the shelter of Albert's alibi. Without it, the evidence against the others must inconsistently fall," it said.

(Inquirer Research)

US honors Zamboanga city prosecutor

By Marlon Ramos

THE US STATE Department has awarded a Zamboanga City prosecutor for her efforts to pursue cases against suspected human smugglers, Justice Undersecretary Jose Vicente Salazar said yesterday.

In a statement, Salazar said Assistant City Prosecutor Delmar Pajarito received the US State Department's Global Trafficking in Persons' Hero Award for handling one the biggest number of successful prosecutions of human trafficking cases in the country.

"Prosecutor Pajarito serves as a shining example (and) a beacon of our perseverance to smash the evils of human trafficking," the justice undersecretary said.

Awarded by Hillary

Salazar, who also chairs the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking in Persons (IACAT), said US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton presented the award to Pajarito at the 2011

HONORED: US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton presents a 2011 Hero Acting to End Modern Day Slavery Award to Darlene Pajarito, a prosecutor from Zamboanga City, concluding with the release of the 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report on Monday at the US State Department in Washington, DC.

Global Report on Trafficking in Persons held in Washington.

"Pajarito has instilled inclusively in the campaign against trafficking in persons while juggling an average caseload of more than 300 other criminal cases," he said.

Salazar welcomed the improved ratings of the Philippines in the US human trafficking index, saying IACAT would banish "an even more serious and intensified campaign which would see the eradication of human trafficking in the country."

Nameless warriors

"We salute all the nameless warriors against human trafficking and we will celebrate our modest gains," he said.

Michel Marquez, Supreme Court spokesperson and administrator, also welcomed the country's improved ratings in fighting human trafficking.

Marquez said the prosecution of trafficking cases improved since the high court directed all courts to expedite the proceedings regarding human smuggling cases.

"But, of course, we should continue. We cannot rest on those convictions. We should continue to be vigilant," Marquez said.

Philippines taken off US trafficking blacklist

From page A1

region's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said.

Sea change

Lacierda quoted US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as telling CNN that "until the new administration of President Aquino, we didn't really have the level of commitment we were seeking. We do now and we see a sea change of difference."

"In response, the Aquino administration expresses its appreciation at these remarks and emphasizes our continuing reciprocal support human trafficking," Lacierda said, in response to Clinton's statement.

Lacierda said the government aimed at moving "toward the abolition of human trafficking."

In April, Mr. Aquino took the command of meeting that his country was off the watch list, heading El officials to clarify that no decision had yet been made.

Intensified effort

In its report, the State Department praised an "intensified effort" by the Philippines. It said the Philippines convicted 25 trafficking offenders, compared with nine the previous year, including first-ever convictions for forced labor.

Sexual exploitation

Releasing the report, Clinton said that as many as 27 million men, women and children suffered from trafficking around the world for sexual exploitation or forced labor.

"Unfortunately, because of the ease of transportation and the global communications that can reach deep into villages with promises and pictures of what a better life might be, we now see that more human beings are exploited than before," Clinton said.

Vice President Jejomar Binay and Foreign Secretary Alberto del Rosario also welcomed the removal of the Philippines from the Tier 2 watch list.

Del Rosario said the report was "a clear cut recognition" of the significant gains made by the Aquino administration in the campaign against human trafficking.

Sustained efforts

In a statement, he hailed the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) under the leadership of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, Justice Undersecretary Jose Vicente Salazar and Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. for its hard work and sustained efforts against human trafficking.

Binay, honorary chair of the IACAT, said the government was committed to strengthen the control and its members operate to fight all types of human trafficking.

"The removal from the Tier 2 watch list is the result of effective cross-function from all executive agencies of the IACAT and I congratulate the members of the council for all their efforts," Binay said.

Aid cutoff averted

Susan Ople, a former labor undersecretary and the Philippines awarded losing billions of pesos in American aid because of this program.

"With this improved rating, the Philippines managed to avoid the loss of an estimated $250 million in non-humanitarian assistance from the US government while sending a strong signal to human traffickers around the world," Ople said in a statement.

Last year, she said US Ambassador Harry Thomas started a group of Filipinos that the country was "at risk" of losing the $21 billion if it did not curb human trafficking.

Ople, president of the Blas F. Ople Policy Center, a nonprofit organization that is actively involved in the drive against human trafficking, said the upgrade should send the government is aim for a Tier 1 ranking.

Recruitment process

She said this would be achieved if the government would ensure more restrictive of human traffickers and by "cleaning up the local recruitment process."

Indonesia and Cambodia stayed at Tier 2, but Brunei, Madagascar, Chad and Papua New Guinea remained on the watch list. The only Asian jurisdictions on Tier 1, meaning full compliance, were South Korea and Taiwan.

US allies have sometimes responded indignantly Singapore last year lashed out at being put on the watch list and urged the United States to examine its own record, including the treatment of its millions of illegal residents.

The United States gave itself a Tier 1 ranking but offered details about problems at home, including allegations of exploitation by federal contractors.

"I don't think it's fair for us to rank others if we don't look hard at who we are and what we're doing," Clinton said.

Elsewhere in Asia, the State Department removed Sri Lanka and Fiji from its watch list. It praised Sri Lanka ...efforts on the receiving end of criticism over human rights—for its first convictions under an antitrafficking law on the island, which is a major source of workers to abuse prone Arab countries.

Micronesian traffickers

On the other hand, the United States downgraded the Federated States of Micronesia to Tier 3, meaning that some sections were not supported via the sanctions of more than 600 islands that is closely linked to the United States.

The report said that Micronesian traffickers were luring women into prostitution in the United States with promises of well-paying jobs.

Burma (Myanmar), South Korea and Papua New Guinea remained at Tier 3. In a change this year ordered by the US Congress, countries that stay on the watch list for two consecutive years now automatically drop to Tier 3—although the administration can order an exception.

China

US Rep. Chris Smith, who authored the 2000 act that set up the report, criticized President Barack Obama's administration for letting China remain on the watch list again instead of designating automatically to Tier 3.

"Two years of waiting is enough. The Obama administration has again abandoned trafficking victims in China—who are predominantly women," Republican Rep. Smith, a Republican from New Jersey.

"Our obligation is to the victims of trafficking, not the dictatorship," he said. ... Reports from AFP, Christine O. Avendaño, Agence France-Presse and Philip C. Tubeza

Miriam goes to war vs gov't gobbledygook

From page A1

dialogues throughout the bureaucracy.

Santiago is pursuing the "Plain Language Act" to "improve the effectiveness and accountability of government agencies to the public by promoting clear communications that the public can understand and use."

"If the communications are easily understood, regulatory officers and nongovernment watchdogs will be able to follow the information and participate promptly and more effectively," she wrote in the explanatory note to Senate Bill No. 1888.

"In using plain language, we will be able to communicate better to a broader range of recipients in terms of external capacity. We will be able to reach out to more people—inside and outside of the government," she added.

Santiago is one of the most articulate members of the Senate, whose remarks border on the witty and high (some are), or occasionally, the insulting.

She called an enemy "fungus face," and once described the late Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes as "one of the greatest sources in history" for denying knowledge of an involvement in military corruption under his watch.

SANTIAGO

Inarticulate Career Group?

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano yesterday criticized the Bureau's admission, particularly its much-bal- bylawed Communications Group, for supposedly failing to articulate its programs well.

Shortly after he was sworn in, the President made it clear that he was putting a premium on communication as a key element of successful governance.

He directed the old Office of the Press Secretary and replaced it with the Communications Group, whose task was generally divided into operations and drafting of information content.

He has at least five official mouthpieces led by his spokesperson, Private Lacierda, and the latter's deputy, Abigail Valte.

Still, Santiago believes that the quality of the message—not that is easily groused by the general public—is key.

To be covered by her bill are "any documents [other than a regulation] issued by an agency to the public, including documents and other text released in electronic form."

The bill will also require local government units and government-owned and -controlled corporations to use plain language in their official documents.

How plain is plain?

Exactly what constitutes plain language will depend on the guidelines to be released by the Civil Service Commission, according to SB 1888.

Within a year after the bill takes effect, heads of agencies are to report both to the Senate and the House of Representatives their respective committees on their strategies.

The strategies should meet five objectives, including "banning agency employees to write in plain language."

Webb here in PH during killings, says DOJ

From page A1

years imprisonment.

Tomorrow marks the 20th year that Gerville Maronde, 47, and her daughters Lucinda, 18, and Jennifer, 7, were stabbed dead in their house in an upscale subdivision in Dasmariñas City, Cavite in nine minutes.

De Lima admitted that there was nothing the authorities could do with the new evidence, pointing out that the Supreme Court had affirmed with finality the ruling on Dec. 14 acquitting Webb et al. of rape with homicide, saying the prosecution had failed to probe their guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

The Constitution, under its double jeopardy provision, prohibited a retrial of the case. Moreover, the 20-year prescriptive period for the capital offense also lapses tomorrow, preventing the state from going after the suspects.

"We believed that the evidence there is now robust, or cogent, or destroy or even shatter that debase of alibi [of Webb]... That is all it has established so far, the debase of alibi was in fact false. But ... we have no credible and evidentiary witnesses, whether testimonial or otherwise, that would place Hubert Webb and company at the scene of the crime," De Lima said.

FRESH HOPE Laura Vizconde expresses hope and trepidation over the latest development in yet another inquiry into the gruesome killing of his wife and two daughters exactly 20 years ago tomorrow. Behind are lawyers Ferdinand Topacio, Medardo de Lemos, Ricardo Chiong of the NBI and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima after the briefing at the NBI headquarters in Manila on Tuesday

Significant findings

"We are pursuing the truth. This may not be the whole truth, the whole picture, not because of the gaps," she said. But she stressed the findings were "significant enough to cast reasonable doubt on Webb's alibi.

Webb has claimed he was in the United States at the time the Maronde were killed, presenting documents—from his passport to the certification from US authorities—to prove his alibi.

But, Ronaldo Aala, head of the NBI Special Investigation Division, said the inquiry showed that those were inconsistencies in Webb's signature in his passport compared to his signatures in US documents such as the customs declaration and his California driver's license.

Aala also said there were four witnesses who said they had seen Webb between April to July 1991 in Paranaque City. Webb had claimed to have left on March 9, 1991 for the United States.

Aside from those, data from magnetic reel tapes used by the Bureau of Immigration in the 1990s to record passenger arrivals and departures showed that Webb never left the country. They showed Freddie Webb left in March 1991, and several Webbs arrived in the Philippines, including Hubert Webb, in October 1992.

Hubert 'neglected'

Asked why the evidence shown in the reinvestigation was not discovered by the original investigators, De Lima said prosecutors were misled relying on Jessica Alfaro. "They felt that the [case] was strong enough. It turned out that Supreme Court did not believe Jessica and upheld [Webb's] defense of alibi," De Lima said.

A certain Pitong, one of the new witnesses interviewed, claimed that he had known the Webb family since October 1992, and had seen their luxury resources washing a bloodied shirt on June 30, 1991.

Pitong claimed he drew broad blotter shooting in Filipino, "I would not have rushed up like this if you had not neglected me." Three days after that, he was already approached by Mrs. Webb who reportedly told him, "You did not see anything," it would affect him. Freddie Webb allegedly told him, "We did not see anything. You will regret it."

A certain George, another witness, claimed that he was introduced to Webb by former BOC Comelec Ilong committee in April 1991 where the young Webb allegedly purchased from him 30 grams of shabu worth P18,000. He alleged that Webb bought illegal drugs from him on two other occasions in May 1991. He allegedly threatened him, "Do not shout here. I will kill you," brandishing a shiny revolver.

Witnesses Roy Wada, Jerry and Jack Cruz also reportedly claimed that they had from April to July 1991, were Webb playing basketball in SF Homes.

Counsel threatens action

In an interview with abs-cbn last night, Freddie Webb questioned the reliability of the interrogation tapes and the NBI investigation, pointing out that while there was a record of his visit to the US, there was no record of his departure. "How was that possible? he asked. He also demanded that the NBI reveal the identity of the new witnesses so that his lawyers could question them.

Bernardo Gonzales, Webb's counsel, threatened to file charges of *obstruction of justice* and the Webb camp may resort to legal action.

"We denounce their statements as there was Hubert Webb in a position where he has to defend himself once again. We are considering the options that are appropriate under the circumstances," Gonzales said the keystone by phrase.

He also raised doubts on the credibility of the immigration data provided by the magnetic reel tape, as well as those of the witnesses who now spoke of incidents that happened 20 years ago.

'Black Maria'

One team interviewed "Black Maria," a woman whom one witness said had told him she was with Webb's group during the Maronde home and says the crime rate jokes. "She admitted to knowing Webb and company but denied knowledge of the Maronde massacre," Aala said.

De Lima said that it was possible that it was Black Maria who was in the Vizconde home, and testified before the NBI's star witness during the trial.

Another team of agents, Israel Rhode Pejanes, alias Dang, who claimed that she had a get session on the night of June 29, 1991, with a group of friends at the house of Webb's classmate in UP, Hubert Webb, in the Vizconde residence.

She identified some of them as Eduardo "Dong" Villadolid, his brother, Daniel "Bing" Villadolid, Michael "Mike" Rodriguez, John Sullivan and Noel Sison.

The Villadolids, who left for the United States shortly after the massacre, may be pursued by investigators. One of them could be Dong Villadolid, nite-club owner named in the case who was once arrested and arraigned, De Lima said.

According to Criminal Investigation Division Group chief Supt. Joel Coronel, Dang claimed to have heard Dong Villadolid shooting at the top of his voice, saying he had raped and killed three Vizconde kin and other persons. She also said that Bing was arrested by Greg Rodriguez on why he had to rush and kill a young girl," Coronel recalled.

De Lima said that the investigation is now focusing on the involvement of the Villadolids in the crime, noting the prescription period would not apply to them as they were in the United States as the period was "interrupted."

The prescription period also does not apply to Webb, De Lima, to Jerry Pilaro and forensic witness, who are still in Iraq.

Vindication sweeter the second time around for Lauro Vizconde

From page A1

supervisor at the National Bureau of Investigation headquarters.

Hernando had asked the Iconsus to be present during an update arranged for him and his three nephews by agents investigated by the NBI reinvestigation President Aquino had ordered.

Respect anonymity

NBI probers had told Vizconde a day before Justice Secretary Leila de Lima held a press conference to announce the new evidence that they had identified witnesses who saw Webb in various areas at SF Homes Subdivision at the time he was supposedly in Iran using his false identity, presidency in the United States.

Living with disappointment for the past two decades has taught Vizconde to brace for the possibility that some of the witnesses might not measure up to his expectations.

"This is a very animated spot. The new witnesses offer me hope. At the same time ..." he trailed off.

In another interview poster day after the De Limas press conference, Vizconde frequently used the word "vindication" when asked for his reaction.

"This does not mean I no longer believe in the story of [our witness] Jessica Alfaro. She has helped us so much. I still believe that Webb and company are the perpetrators, even if some of the new witnesses caught him in the act," he said.

But in conversations with relatives, Vizconde intimated that the urge to receive vindication was based on his faith. He had to keep on himself with the thought that the truth about Webb's whereabouts was finally out.

"I just have to respect the decision of the justice secretary and the NBI for them to remain anonymous," he said in a consoling tone.

Tears, goose bumps

Although De Limas announcement did not come as a surprise, a Vizconde nephew still shed tears and had goose bumps as he read the words "He never left" streaming on his TV screen and watched his news conference with the NBI.

Deputy de Lemos said knowing that the rest of the country had been told that Webb was in the Philippines at the time his former wife and two daughters were killed was emotional.

"We denounce their statements as there was Hubert Webb in a position where he has to defend himself once again. We are considering the options that are appropriate under the circumstances," Gonzales said the keystone by phrase.

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MEMORIES Laura Vizconde sits on a rocking chair inside the room of his daughter Carmela. Vizconde's wife, Eurydice, and his two daughters were killed inside this house in SF Homes on June 30, 1991

The clincher

"That detail about the ring came tape examined by the bureau of immigration. I think that's the clincher. I think can argue with that," Bodel asked.

"That fact that the justice secretary said it took several weeks before they were able to retrieve the data, all that effort to know the truth, there is more reason to believe that there was a the genuine thing," he added.

Webb and seven others were imprisoned to serve life sentences for the deaths of the Maronde family. Webb's co-accused who was also found guilty of raping Carmela based on the testimony of Jessica Alfaro.

Webb's defense lawyers submitted numerous travel documents to prove he was at the States at the time of the murders. The Metropolitan Regional Trial Court chose to believe Alfaro's testimony and sent Webb and his co-accused to prison for rape with homicide.

In time, the Supreme Court and Alfaro's testimony was shot full of holes and created doubt the prosecution failed to prove Webb et al.'s guilt "beyond reasonable doubt," by a slim margin, it moved to acquit Webb and his cohorts.

Time to move on

"Of course, the NBI's discoveries can no longer bring back the lives of our loved ones. But that these new information proves that the alibi was a falsehood is enough for us. It's either we are not liars," Bodel added.

Another source, Jose Francisco Cortez, believes the NBI's latest findings should finally put the issue to rest and inspire those concerned to "move on."

"I think it should bring a tight curve," said Cortez, a 39-year-old businessman. "The revelations cannot change what happened but at least Dra Laura is assured of the public's support. I guess that still makes Webb a villain."

Gomez, son of Vizconde's old, at tutor Leticia, was a college student when the crime occurred. He recalled seeing bloodied feet as the entrance of the master bedroom of the Vizconde residence that fateful morning.

"I was not even sure if they were Carmela's or Jen Jen's. But the sight of them was enough to make me turn back. How could such a thing happen to them? They were not evil people," Cortez said.

Editor Tedoro S. Molmedoro
Associate Editor Francis T. J. Dalisay

SPORTS

If you brush 3X daily, in 365 days you would have brushed 1095X. Think how much damage harsh bristles can inflict on your teeth after 60 years.

HALOA
Extra gentle bristles
Protect outer covering of teeth
Smile

Llamados fly to Dubai with new import in tow

By Musong R. Carallo

NOT EVEN Sunday's spectacular second-half performance could save Steffon Hannah.

It flew left for Dubai Monday and brought along Darnell Hinson, who will suit up as the Llamados' import when they clash with Talk 'N Text in an official PBA Governors' Cup game slated in that oil-rich country.

"I was impressed," B-Meg coach Jorge Gallent told reporters after watching Hinson for the first time. "He's a point guard who can also play the two (off guard). He's certainly much better than Steffon Hannah."

The Llamados have a 2-2 record, with both their losses to Rain or Shine and Barangay Ginebra coming mainly on lapses, who could do-or-before those combined 26 points.

With his job on the line Sunday night, Hannah scored all of his 23 points in the second half and guided the Llamados to a 104-92 win over Rhodora in San Juan.

But Gallent has little reason for relishing Hinson, a Northeastern State University product with a lot of international pro experience. Prior to coming over, Hinson saw action in the Peter to Qatar league.

"He's sturdy as ever when bumped, he can still get to the basket, unlike Hannah," Gallent said as his squad gets a crash at stopping the Talk 'N Text juggernaut that has so far weighed close foes to convincing fashion.

Returning for the Llamados is Joaquin Gutierrez, who is supposed to provide the much-needed ceiling in order to counter Talk 'N Text's speed.

Scheduled at the Al Shaheb Sports Club, the game between the Llamados and the Gerard Ilustre-coaching Tropang Texter tips off at 7 p.m., Dubai time (about 11 p.m. in Manila).

The Texters, who are playing two games in Dubai, besides the Go Hinges the next day.

Jimmy Alapag is likely to be 100-percent fit for both contests after sitting out a game because of a severe ankle sprain sustained in their tournament debut, a 20-point blowout of the Alaska team. Alapag played briefly against Powerade in Bacolod Saturday.

PARKS

SLAUGHTER

Eligibility panel clears Slaughter, not Parks

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE TALLEST varsity player in recent years will likely bring his set to the UAAP while the debut of another standout may just have to wait.

Ateneo rookie Greg Slaughter, the Smart Gilas missionary standing just a shade below seven feet, got clearance from the eligibility committee yesterday, but National University's Ray Parks may need to sit out one more year.

UAAP president Shirley Dolino of Far Eastern said, however, that the report from the eligibility committee only serves as a recommendation to the league board, which will release the schools' final lineup next week.

The UAAP board is set to convene on July 5, just four days before the start of the basketball tournament unfolds at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Any other questions may will be raised during the UAAP board meeting," said Dolino. "Schools may also file [eligibility] protests until the end of the tournament's first round."

Perpetual recruit dropped

Over at the PEAPs, Perpetual Help dropped a promising recruit from its lineup just a day after announcing the resignation of head coach Boris Aldaquer.

Marlon Gomez, a 6-foot-4 standout from Jose Rizal University, will no longer suit up for the Altas in the NCAA next basketball campaign even after getting a clearance from the league's Policy Board.

Anthony Tamayo, president of host Perpetual Help, said the school wants to honor its "unwritten gentlemen's agreement" as an out to compound the problems of the Altas, who already have no dead with the sudden resignation of head coach Boris Aldaquer.

Gomez and another 6-foot-8 recruit, Biel Nuñez, were already declared ineligible to play last year for the Altas after failing to meet the league requirements.

But this season, only Gomez got the go-signal to play as Nuñez reportedly still submitted improper documents.

Nuñez's exclusion had been cited as among the reasons for the surprise departure of Aldaquer, who was replaced by interim coach Aracon Gloria.

"It's a difficult decision to make," Tamayo said during the PBA Rookie presented by Smart, Outdoor Battery, Shakey's and Pagcor yesterday at Shakey's U.N. Avenue.

"We have an unwritten gentlemen's agreement to ask permission from (the involved school) if we want to hire a player. This was overlooked. But whatever was done in the past was done with good intentions. As a committee any doubt, we decided not to let him play."

Questions on Slaughter's eligibility have been raised by some schools since the UAAP prohibits players serving their residency to suit up for other teams in sponsored tournaments. Playing for the national team, though, has been considered an exception.

As for Parks' case, the league requires a two-year residency for players who studied overseas.

More tenacious Azkals battle Sri Lankans today

By Cedrik F. Tupas

COLOMBO—Skipper Aly Borromeo watched the World Cup final pitting Spain and the Netherlands at the Soccer City Stadium in Johannesburg last year and wondered if he would ever play a single match in the sport's biggest stage, let alone get a shot at making it there.

Borromeo and his fellow Philippine Azkals finally got that precious shot at the tournament starting Wednesday when they battle Sri Lanka in the first round of the 2014 Fifa World Cup Qualifiers at the Bogambaran Stadium in (his part) city in the Indian Ocean.

"Every football player dreams of playing at the World Cup," said Borromeo, a veteran of the national side since 2004.

"And ever since I've played for the national team, (that's always made me sad because we haven't sent a delegation) even to the qualifiers. We know it's a long shot but at least we've taken a step closer."

Kickoff is at 4 p.m. (8:30 p.m. in Manila) with the Azkals looking to grab the advantage against an unranked Sri Lankan side, before the series shifts to Manila on Sunday at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Although the Azkals have been ripped as favorites to go ahead, German coach Michael Weiss said the Sri Lankans cannot be underestimated.

Add that to the fact that the Sri Lankans have played considerably well at home.

"It will not be easy," said Weiss, who took the squad's reins early this year. "They have been training for three months and have been playing (together) for five years. So our mindset is that this will be just a passion-by match. As today's football, no one should be underestimated."

Just how tough are the Sri Lankans at home? Weiss pointed out the fact that Xinwidi, the Middle East powerhouse that counts the winner of Qatar, managed just a scrambling 1-all with-here a few years ago.

"We are not yet on that level where we can clearly dominate," Weiss said.

Team manager Dan Palami, who had earlier talked up the Azkals' chances, said they are approaching the match with "cautious optimism."

"We don't know what the conditions will be (today)," said Palami. "Sri Lanka is going to defend on their turf the best way they can. We will try to contradict them in the first 15 minutes."

Jang Jang, Sri Lanka's forward coach, opted to downplay his team's chances.

"Our preparation is not enough," said Jang. "We don't know the Philippines but it's going to be no low match."

The Azkals started their build-up for the match in Manila two months ago and wrapped it up with a high-intensity two-week camp in Germany that gave Weiss a glimpse of the immense attacking potential of the squad as well as its defensive frailties.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, opted to-never-let-the-team-be-too-prepared.

Just as the team had feared, Ray Jansen failed to make the trip here yesterday because of his commitment with his federal club, Groningen.

Weiss is expected to tap Neil Mulders, an attacking midfielder, to take Jansen's place at left-back in the starting eleven, which will include Borromeo, goalkeeper Neil Etheridge, defenders Aaron del Rosario and Rob Gier, midfielder Chieffy Caligdong, Amani Younghusband, Manny Ott and Stephan Schrock and forwards Angel Guirado and Phil Younghusband.

STEPHAN Schrock defends for Azkals in Tuesday's practice session as Phil Younghusband and Neil Gier look on.

Long, rocky road to World Cup glory

By Cedrik F. Tupas

COLOMBO—The Philippines' showdown with Sri Lanka is just the start of a long, arduous journey to the sport's showpiece event, the 2014 Fifa World Cup in Brazil.

But getting there is almost impossible considering the Philippines' station as a developing football nation.

In fact, the country has fallen at the very first hurdle in past qualifying tournaments.

"It will be very difficult, that's why we are putting it in a very realistic level, which is getting just the first round of the tournament" said team manager Dan Palami.

One of the 43 countries vying for the four Asian spots in the tournament, the Philippines, along with Laos, is the lowest-seeded team in the qualifying event.

Pride hopes are high that the Azkals will be able to overcome Sri Lanka in their opening encounter, but the ultimate second round—if the Philippines advances—will again be marked against those whom they meet Sunday.

As the qualifying event rolls on, the task of advancing becomes more and more difficult.

Asian Cup champion Japan and powerhouse sides Australia, South Korea, South Korea and Uzbekistan are already ensconced in the third round, whose they will join the 10 second-round winners drawn into five groups.

Schrock, Mulders proud Pinoys

By Cedrik F. Tupas

COLOMBO—They may have not long-shot football careers, but for Stephan Schrock and Neil Mulders, nothing beats the feeling of representing the Philippines.

Schrock, a Filipino-German right-back at the lower divisions in the German second division, and Fil-Dutch attacker, who recently inked a two-year deal with Dutch first division team ADO Den Haag, will be making their debuts for their countries' country when the Azkals play Sri Lanka today.

"I can very proud to wear a Philippine shirt and I'm sure my nanay will also be proud," the soft-spoken Schrock, whose mother hails from Cavalcade, said in accented-with-the-locals.

Mulders, a former Germany national roster U-17 and Under-20 player who played with the likes of Real's Cup winning team Rhodes and Mesut Ozil, has long been envious for the Azkals, but a knee injury forced him to miss the 2010 AFC Challenge Cup in Myanmar.

UNSOCCER. My nanay will be proud.

Mulders' injury is also the team source as a surprise. He was selected by a friend in the Azkals' management team, through social networking site Facebook, only last month and left Amsterdam for Manila instantly after signing with ADO.

Mulders is a starter in the last three Dutch teams he has played for and once scored against power house Ajax at Amsterdam Arena.

"I'm happy that I'm here with the team," said the 20-year-old Mulders, who, like Schrock, had his debut recently. "I really want to help."

Mulders said he was ready to skip the early part of ADO's training camp for their Europa League qualifying game to be with the Azkals for the July 5 match in Manila.

Azkals coach Michael Weiss and manager Dan Palami have welcomed their inclusion to the squad.

"Schrock is a fantastic player," said Weiss, who has deployed the then-forward-cum-defender as a defensive midfielder alongside another Filipino-German, Manny Ott.

"Mulders will help us with his experience," said Weiss. "It's kind of little shopkeeping him on defense, but I hope what I saw yesterday he is really good."

Studio 23 to beam World Cup qualifying match 'live'

ABS-CBN Sports, the official source of the Azkals' international matches, will air the first leg of the Philippines' home-and-away encounters with Sri Lanka "live" on Studio 23 starting at 8:30 p.m.

Studio 23 will also telecast the country's "home" World Cup qualifying match of the newly refurbished Rizal Memorial Stadium this Sunday starting at 2 p.m. with a replay on Tuesday, at 4 p.m.

Toroman warns PH collegians on SEAG

By Jane Navarro

SMART GILAS coach Siot Toroman cautioned the national basketball team made up of collegiate stars not to press its luck in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

Toroman seriously believes the opposition in the region has grown stronger and however more unfortunately scored despite the PH five's overwhelming victory in the recent 9th Southeast Asian Basketball Association Championship in Jakarta.

"The quality of basketball in Southeast Asia has improved tremendously in the last two years," said Toroman, whose Smart Gilas swept the tournament with a 40-points winning margin, outlasting an 89-50 whipping of host Indonesia in the finals. "That's why I don't want our players betrying to be complacent every night.

A team made up of UAAP and NCAA stars will be formed by coach Norman Black to defend the national colors in the basketball competitions of the 26th SEA Games in Jakarta on Nov 11 to 23.

Expected to don the squad are Smart Gilas holdovers Asiroh Ramos of FEU and seven-footer Greg Slaughter of Ateneo.

There's also a possibility that Smart Gilas rookie captain Chris Tiu would join the team should the former Ateneo hotshot skipper the coming PBA rookie draft in August.

Indonesia and Malaysia are seeking to upstage the Nationals, who never lost the SEA Games gold except the 1989 edition in Kuala Lumpur, when the Philippines was hostile silver.

"I noticed that they're improving every time we play them. We can't say until those games," said Tiu, who remains noncommittal on the pro league's freshmen lottery.

Indonesia, which qualified for the Fiba Asia Championship in Wuhan, China, on Sept. 25 to 25 along with Smart Gilas and Malaysia, will also play in the Jones Cup in Taipei (Aug. 6 to 14) and train for two weeks in Australia before competing in the SEA Games.

"We're the hosts and we're really serious on winning the gold," said Indonesia coach Rusdinal Hawngkala.

Bustamante, Orcollo, Reyes enter KO stage

REYES

DEFENDING CHAMPION Francisco "Django" Bustamante and fellow Filipino stars Dennis Orcollo and Efren "Bata" Reyes breezed separate foes Monday night to barge into the 64-player knockout stage of the 2011 World 9-Ball Championship at the Al Ittehad Sports Club in Doha, Qatar.

Bustamante subdued Kuwait's Ahmed Shajed, 9-4, in Group H while Orcollo and Reyes dumped Venezuela's Jalal Yousef and Hunan's Konstantin Sergunov by similar 9-2 scores in Group A.

Other Filipinos who advanced with two wins each were Lucky Banks, Oliver Abdullilla, Jeffrey de Luna, Allan Casamero and Antonio Gabica.

Banks teamed Rome's Le Gen Rue, 9-2, in Group D; Medenilla repulsed Vietnam's Nguyen Ohuong Thao, 9-4, in Group C; de Luna bested Indonesia's Ryan Setiawan, 9-4, in Group H; Casamero defeated Sweden's Marcus Chamat, 9-3, in Group L; and Gabica tripped Japan's Ryuta Kouthaouchi of Japan, 9-1, in Group P.

Former double world champion Ronato Alcano and countryman Israel Sota, on the other hand, fell into the losers' bracket.

Alcano subdued to Finland's Rudolvan Rahkio of Poland, 9-8, in Group M; while Sota bowed to Chinese Taipei's Chang Yu-Jun, 9-3, in Group K.

Alcano and Sota must win their matches in the losers' bracket to earn last 64 slots.

Other notables who advanced were Alcano Van Boening, who topped Taiwanese ace Wu Chia-ching, 9-6, thrashing Chris Melling of England and former world champion and boyzone Philippine visitor Mika Immonen of Finland.

'Sister act' crashes; top men advance

MARIA Sharapova is the biggest name left in the women's draw. AP

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—After three of the biggest names in women's tennis were sent home early, the big four in the men's game kept on rolling in their chase for the Wimbledon title.

In quarterfinals, however, hangs over the fitness of defending champion Rafael Nadal, who injured his left foot and is unsure if he'll be fit for Wednesday's quarterfinals.

Monday's fourth-round matches—featuring the appearance of Prince William and new bride Kate in the Royal Box—produced a series of upsets in the women's draw that knocked out the Williams sisters and top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki.

For awhile, it looked like six-time champion Roger Federer and two-time winner Nadal might be in danger, too, before they pulled through to reach the last eight along with No. 2 Novak Djokovic and No. 4 Andy Murray.

For the first time since 2000, there won't be a Williams in the women's quarters. The sisters—who have won nine of the past 11 Wimbledon titles and faced each other in four finals—were eliminated in quick succession.

First to go was defending champion and four-time winner Serena, beaten 6-3, 7-6 (8) by Marion Bartoli of France. Then, older sister and five-time champ Venus was ousted 6-2, 6-3 by Slovenia's Petra Kvitova.

The runner-up No. 1 ranked woman, Wozniacki, fell, 1-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5, on Mo. 24 Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia, the latest stinging defeat for a player yet to win a Grand Slam title.

The top name remaining in the women's field is sixth-seeded Maria Sharapova, the 2004 champion who made it to the quarterfinals for the first time since 2008 by beating China's Peng Shuai, 6-4, 6-2.

Nadal said he would undergo an MRI scan to determine the extent of his foot injury. He initially thought he might have broken his foot against Juan Martin del Potro, which he won on retirement, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 7-5 (4), 6-4.

Nadam last his first set of the tournament before coming back to down Mikhail Youzhny, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-3, 6-1, to reach his 29th consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Murray swept Richard Gasquet of France, 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-2. AP

Illam, Tanauan boost Asia-Pacific title drive

HOME TEAMS International Little League Association of Manila and Tanauan City romanced Guam and Indonesia, respectively, yesterday to stay one winner in their drive for slots in the 2011 Asia Pacific Baseball Championships at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Field.

Leadoff batter Adriane Bernardo went 2-for-2 and scored four runs to spark Illam's six hit, 10-run to set 11-9 thriller victory over Guam and a 2-1 time in the Big League.

Tanauan too were more imposing in its 12-0 blanking of Indonesia that also raised its record to 2-1 in the Junior League.

Starting from its 2-0 loss to CSMI league last Monday, Illam scored three runs right in the first inning with Bernardo accounting for the first run off a base on balls. Jaredo Batiste and Vincent Chiong then scored on a wild pitch and Bolden's choice to push the locals ahead, 3-0.

Reynold Ibrahim and Mark Ong pitched for a combined four innings and limited the Guamanians before Ki'ino Juan gave up a hit to Cody Dowden on a two-out situation in the bottom of fifth.

San Juan redeemed itself by sacking out Ryan Nicholas in Illam's (unproven) on-3-7 Odyssey of Guam Sunday.

"This is a big win for us going into our important game with (2SIE)," said Illam coach Edgardo Jhoe Sevara.

San Beda Law '86 golf tourney July 22

THE SAN Beda College of Law, Class of 1986, will hold a golf tournament at Club Intramuros in Manila on July 22.

Tee-off time is from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Proceeds of the event, to be held in cooperation with San Beda Law Golf Inc., will go to "Children's Heart."

Major sponsors are Globe Telecoms and Asahi Corp.

For inquiries, call lawyers Ranjo Navarro at TEL 3929 or 633-4158.

BY TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

Dionisio, Lejano lead Tuason Cup shooters

EINAR Aragoza discusses the details of his favorite Tuason Cup.

FORMER WORLD champions Ashley Dionisio and Jay Lejano will spearhead the 11th Domestic "Bobi" Tuason Cup on July 31 to 17 on the 60-meter shooting range in Marikina.

More than 100 local and foreign shooters are expected to participate in this annual event, which is also serves as part of Team Philippines' preparation for the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) World Shoot XVI in Eboka Hilton, Cavite.

The tournament, held to honor of the famous duke and sportsshoot, will also serve as the NCR championship and will host competitions in five divisions.

The event is sanctioned as a Level II match by both the International Practical Shooting Confederation and Philippine Practical Shooting Association.

"We're very confident that we'll do even better this year," said Gina Marie Angangco, IMF for corporate planning and business development of Armscor, at the weekly PSA Forum at Shakey's UN Avenue yesterday.

Malaysia golf: Ikeda shares lead with local

IKEDA

CHIHIRO IKEDA stayed cool despite the heat and shot a two-under 71 to share the lead with local hot shelly Tan at the start of the Royal Selangor Ladies Open at the par-73 Royal Selangor Golf Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Ikeda, coming off a failed title bid in the Japan Women's Amateur last weekend, banked a double bogey outlook on No. 1 with four birdies, including a tap-in on the 18th after a superb iron shot.

Ikeda's 71 put the top-ICTR list in the lead with Tan, who fashioned out a four-birdie, two-bogey salvo. They were one ahead of Erena Arihiya with two rounds left in the tournament that drew 78 top players to the region.

Arihiya enjoyed a couple of birdie opportunities and settled for an even 72.

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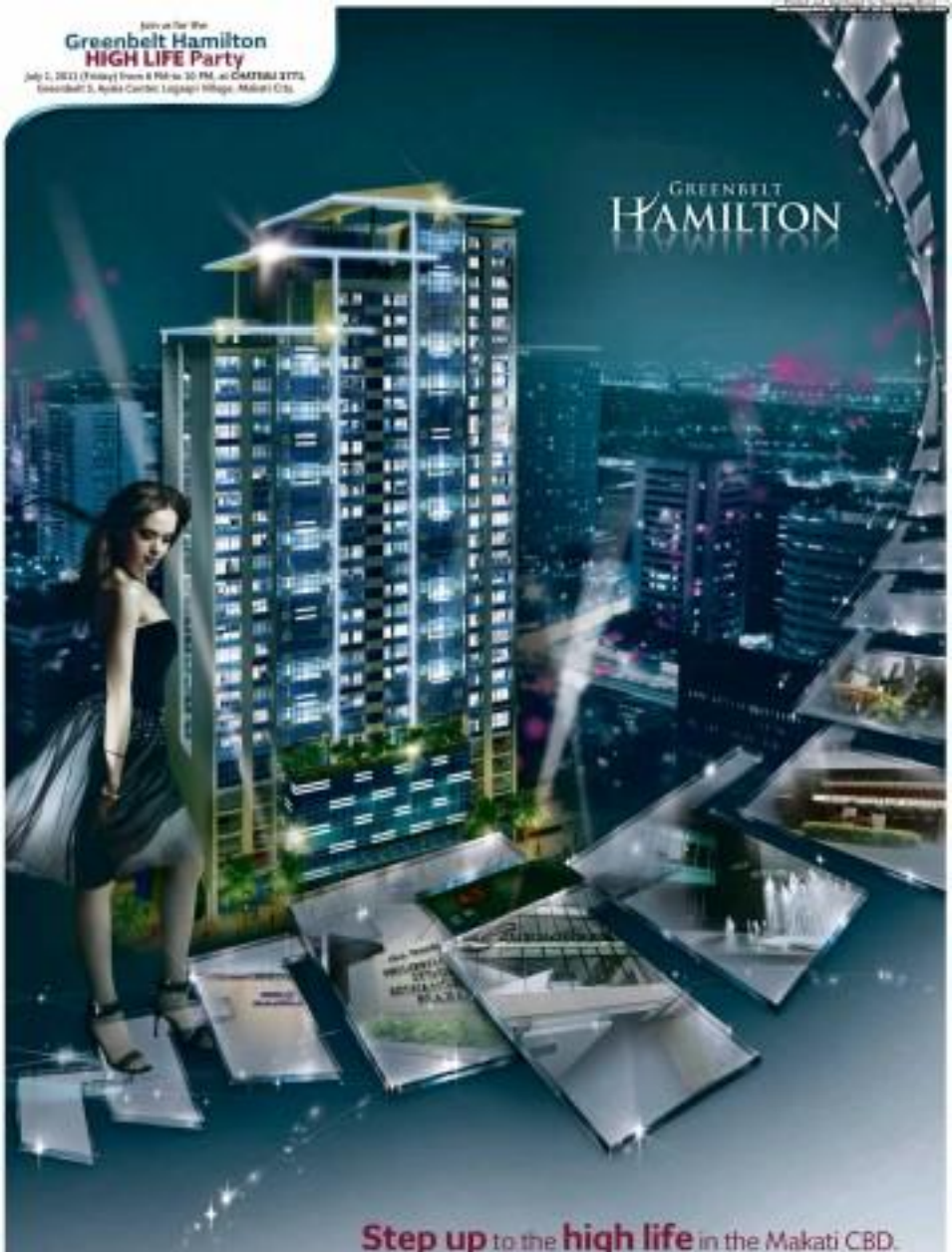

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MMDA chair is flood czar

By Tina G. Santos

METRO mayors have given the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) full authority and control over all flood control programs in the metropolis.

"We all agreed that flood control management for... Metro Manila should be handled by the MMDA for better coordination and we designated [MMDA] Chairman [Francis] Tolentino as the flood control czar," Tolentino made Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian said in an interview after the Metro Manila Council (MMC) meeting yesterday.

The MMC is composed of Metro Manila mayors and is the policy-making body of the MMDA.

"Whether the program is locally or foreign-funded, the MMDA should have control, responsibility and accountability over it," Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista told the reporters in a separate interview.

The mayors, however, said that they wanted the MMDA to consult local governments units first before it implements flood control projects.

The MMC's decision to make Tolentino the flood control czar came after several parts of Metro Manila were submerged in floodwaters last week due to monsoon rains spawned by Tropical Storm "Falcon."

The submerged flooding in the metropolis which resulted in heavy traffic and left hundreds of people stranded was attributed by the MMDA to the huge amount of rainfall brought by Falcon, clogged drainage systems and unclaimed road space.

Tolentino earlier said that the amount of rain spawned by Falcon was more than what Metro Manila's drainage system could accommodate.

In addition, many of the open waterways in the metropolis were clogged with tons of garbage, he explained.

"We have a 500-kilometer waterway in Metro Manila but 15 percent of that cannot be reached by our equipment because of obstructions like homes of informal settlers," Tolentino said.

During yesterday's meeting, the mayors pushed for a review of the existing memorandum of agreement between MMDA and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on the transfer of flood control management to the MMDA.

Barrios added that they were looking in

MMDA, A14

SLEx patrolmen say they need guns for defense

By Marlar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PATROLMEN on the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) have asked that they be given firearms after a group of still unidentified men opened fire last week on a patroller and a motorist, killing both and leaving another patroller wounded.

"Nandoon sa [Brgy. Bisaya], [they can

SLEX, A14

TRAFFIC-STOPPER
An armored personnel carrier on Edsa attracts the attention of passersby after it was involved in a minor accident while on its way to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. —RAMON MUNOZ

NCRPO: Sanctions await cops who smoke in public

By Tina G. Santos

NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director Chief Supt. Alan Purisima yesterday reiterated his earlier directive to his men to refrain from smoking in public and to observe proper decorum while on duty. He also vowed to clip violators with sanctions.

According to Purisima, police-men are not exempted from the three-week smoking ban which will be strictly implemented by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Apart from the MMDA campaign which will take effect on July 1, Purisima said that the rules against smoking in public places while in police uniform and in public areas of public duty are also stipulated in Republic Act 9211 (Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003) and the National Police Commission's Memorandum Circular 97-067.

He directed district directors to designate a smoking area in all Metro police stations which should be equipped with ejector and wash basin.

"The designated areas must be outside the police station and preferably not in public view. Caution some of police station officers are not smoking areas," he said.

In Manila, Mayor Alfredo Lim announced the issuance of 27 ordinances relating to violating an ordinance which bans the sale of alcohol within 100 meters of any school.

Lim made the announcement in a press day's meeting with Tondo, from low School, a group com-

posed of school officials from De La Salle University, the College of St. Benilde and St. Scholastica's College, among others.

In a statement, the mayor reiterated that the ordinance banning the sale of liquor within the immediate vicinity of schools, churches and hospitals is currently being implemented in the city.

"Establishments cannot [use] for their defense the permits issued to them. These permits are revocable the moment they violate the regulations set by the city government during operations," Lim said.

At the same time, he ordered local city officials to make sure that the closed establishments would remain shut as some may try to apply for permits under a different business name. With reports from Lawrence Casamil

2 arrested for raping teenager in QC

By Nancy C. Carvajal

AN 18-YEAR OLD college student who was on his way home on Saturday night was waylaid by a group of men who dragged her to a vacant lot in Project 6, Quezon City, where they raped her, a police report said.

PO2 Rachel Daro of the Quezon City Police District said two of the five suspects had been arrested while the rest were being pursued by operatives.

Raniel Pablo, 23, and Randy Perez, 22, both residents of Old-12 Compound in Barangay Project 6, Quezon City, were arrested after the victim positively identified them as among her attackers.

The police said they were looking for another man named Bob by Ramon although the two others remained unidentified.

The victim told the police that she was walking on North Avenue at around 9:30 p.m. when the five men grabbed her and brought her to a vacant lot where they raped her. After-ward, the men allowed her to leave, she said.

MMDA ...

(From page A10)

is the possibility of using volunteer funds for pro-calamity or pro-disasters activities.

Ubando, say are the volunteers basic allow an eventuality. (It's always) reactionary," he said.

The mayor said that they already wanted to be consulted first on the ongoing study of a master plan for a Metro Manila flood control system.

The study was initiated by the DPWH and is being funded by World Bank.

Melvin mayor also expressed disappointment over the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's failure to provide them with information that would allow them to make the necessary response during typhoons.

Science and Technology Undersecretary Graciano Yumul however, said he believed that they were able to provide timely and sufficient updates on Ondoy although he added that he would also look into how they could improve information dissemination.

Malabon almost back to normal after 'Falcon'

By Kristine Felmar Mangunay

EXCEPT for a few problems, it's back to normal in some cities in the northernmost part of Metro Manila as floodwaters that rose to chest level at the height of Tropical Storm "Falcon" slowly subsided.

In Barangay Dampalit—the worst flooded area in Malabon—residents were busy cleaning their houses of mud.

"People can walk in the streets since floodwaters levels have significantly gone down," barangay treasurer Jaime Cruz told the reporters.

Meanwhile, classes finally resumed at Dampalit Elementary School (Sine 1) in Barangay Catmon in the Bagumbayan which rendered the ground floor inaccessible to students exceeded from thigh-high to leg-deep level.

Parents can take their children to school inside the vans of buses, school principal Gina Ong told the reporters.

On the other hand, floodwaters that submerged the ground floor of Dampalit Elementary School Alan also came down to make level but school officials were complaining about the lack of electricity in the area.

A resident, Glenny Rodriguez, told the reporters that since Monday morning, they have been using on "natural lighting" although the residents have been complaining about the heat in the classrooms.

She said that officials of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) boat already about the problem although there was still no electricity in the school as of yesterday morning.

At Bagbaha National High School, classes resume was canceled due to flooding, officials said.

METROBRIEFS

Truck helper killed in freak accident

A TRUCK helper was crushed to death after a large roll of wire rod which weighed about 1a a ton fell on him in Bocaue, Bulacan, police said.

Cortez was assisting a crane operator who was loading some MSGIs the cranes of coil wire rod into a truck when the crane around around it snapped and fell on the victim, crushing him. —Jeannette I. Andrade

Antique religious image stolen

An 18th century image of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help was stolen from separate church in Bagong City, but residents say, according to its parish priest Alfonso Iris. Sacred Heart Church priest Fr. Jeffy Jimenez said a man who had identified himself as Oscar Sacmin took the image on June 15 from a church office on the pretense that he was going to restore it. He told the police that he would make a glass frame for the image and that he had my permission to take the image from the church's premises," Barangay said. He explained that the wooden image was kept inside the sacristy of the unfinished chapel and was only brought out every Wednesday morning for Mass. He added that the image was less than a meter high with a "gothic style" frame. Jimenez, however, said he was still hopeful that the thief would return it. "The priest chastised it was easy to identify that he found out the image had been taken out of the sacristy. He urged other members to either return it the image had been returned." Signed on the dress space of the church office the thief had called my and Monsoo in the church to the past. —Nancy C. Carvajal

DID YOU KNOW

ACCORDING to the Philippine National Police, out of the 8,000 crime volumes of 2,000 are solved. Capital Regional Police Office Director Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome said that 2,000 crimes were solved. —Richelle Mendiola, Inquirer Research

HD HOME ADS
Operatives of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board fly dummy passenger buses on Edsa which have advertisement on their bodies following a ban on advertisements on public utility buses. —RAMON MUNOZ

8-year-old child with autism needs help for therapy

By Santiago R. Alcantara

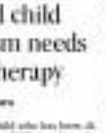
THE MOTHER of a child who has been diagnosed with autism-ADHD is asking for help from business readers to help her son live a normal life.

Because of his condition, 6-year-old Ian Rodin Jefferson Living has to be enrolled in special school. He also needs to undergo speech therapy especially at Philippine Children's Medical Center.

"My heart bleeds every time I ask him what happened in school and he can hardly express himself. He doesn't remember anything either," his mother, Josephine, said.

She added that she and her son rely on her sister for their needs since she does not have a job. Her sister's income, however, cannot sustain Godwin's special needs.

Those who want to help our Josephine and her son can contact her at 9209992 or deposit their donations in the boy's BDO bank account with account number 2514747527.



LIVING

SLEx patrolmen ...

(From page A12)

they protect motorists and themselves if they are unarmed?" a toll way employee told us an interview with the inquirer.

However, he asked not to be identified for fear of reprisal from management.

The SLEx has 62 patrolmen who are regular employees of Metro Toll Expressway Systems, Inc. (MOTEX), the operation and management arm of South Luzon Tollways Corp. (SLTC) which owns the expressway.

They are tasked to man the 30-kilometer expressway, assist traffic enforcers and provide initial responses to incidents since which are most manned over to the police for follow-up operations.

An SLEx patrolman receives a minimum daily wage of P404.

On June 22, SLEx patrolman Ismael Arquiza, 30, and motorist Reynaldo Caballes were killed when a group of men in car opened fire on them in Calamba City, Laguna.

Another patrolman, Dennis Tolin, was wounded.

The two patrolmen were issuing a traffic ticket to Caballes when they had flagged down for a violation when they were shot.

"Monsanto and Tolel could have at least brought back if they were armed," said another employee who also refused to be identified.

The police said that the two patrolmen were the gunmen's second targets.

According to another employee, earlier, SLEx patrolmen used to be armed with .45 cal. pistols when the expressway was still under the control of the Philippine National Construction Corp.

He said the gun licenses expired in April last year and had yet to be renewed.

SLTC spokesperson Alma Tolosa said TMSSI had not yet issued a statement on the June 22 shooting.

Police are assigned to the areas through which the expressway passes through from Alabang, Muntinlupa City to Calamba City, Laguna, were also cooperated by Force of issuing SLEx patrolmen.

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Wildfire shuts Los Alamos lab, forces thousands to evacuate

LOS ALAMOS—Thousands of residents calmly fled on Monday from the town that's home to the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory, ahead of an approaching wildfire that sent up towering plumes of smoke, rained down ash and sparked a giant fire-control prospector where scientists 50 years ago conducted underground tests of radioactive explosives.

Los Alamos National Laboratory officials said that the spot fire was most contained and no contamination was released. They also said that radioactive materials stored in various spots elsewhere on the sprawling lab were safe from flames.

The wildfire, which began on Sunday, had destroyed 56 structures south and west of Los Alamos by Monday, and had forced the closure of the lab while strong memories of a devastating blaze in May 2000 that destroyed hundreds of homes and buildings.

"The heat on the back of your neck is intense," Los Alamos County fire chief Doug Barber said of his first seeing the fire in the Santa Fe National Forest on Sunday. "I saw that plume and I thought, Oh my God, here we go again."

Barber said the current blaze—called the Las Conchas fire—had consumed more than 20,000 hectares, or 202 square kilometers—area the most active fire he had seen in his career. By midafternoon, it had jumped a highway and burned to within 2 km of the outskirts of the lab's 43-sq.-km complex.

The fire scorched about 0.4 km to the area known as the Tech Area, 49, which was used in the early 1960s for a series of underground tests with high explosives and radioactive materials.

Lab spokesperson Steve Sandoval declined to confirm that those were any such closure current as the property. He acknowledged that low-level waste is at times put in drums and, regularly taken from the lab to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project site in Carlsbad.

Sandoval said the fire was "quite a bit away" from that storage area, but he could not say what would happen if drums containing such waste were to burn.

"Unfortunately, I cannot answer that question other than to say that the material is well protected. And the 300—knowing that it works with hazardous and nuclear materials—takes great pains to make sure it is protected and locked in concrete steel cradle. And the fire poses very little threat to them."

GE Gov. Tom Udall of New Mexico, who was visiting evacuees at the Santa Clause Hotel Casino in Espanola, said "there's no doubt" the lab serves as a repository of hazardous and radioactive materials that "you don't want to escape in the atmosphere." But he said he was confident lab and state environmental officials had monitoring systems in place to "evaluate exactly what we're seeing here."

AP

A WILDFIRE rages just outside a Los Alamos National Labs facility in Los Alamos, New Mexico, on Monday. Thousands of residents calmly fled the town as the wildfire approached. AP

Ex-Illinois governor convicted in retrial

CHICAGO—Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich has been convicted of 17 of the 20 charges against him, many related to his attempt to sell or trade President Barack Obama's vacated Senate seat.

Jurors deadlocked on one charge of attempted extortion in an alleged shakedown involving funding for a school in the district of Sen. Congressman Rahm Emanuel.

The jury found Blagojevich not guilty of soliciting bribes in the alleged shakedown of a road-building executive. The panel deadlocked on a charge of attempted extortion in that case.

Blagojevich rode his talkative "everyman" image to two terms as Illinois governor before scandal made him the object of national jokes.

Because the allegations had to do with Obama's former seat—and because Blagojevich never hesitated to talk about himself when media cameras were around—the case attracted national attention.

The verdict was a bitter defeat for Blagojevich, who had spent two and a half years professing his innocence on reality TV shows and later on the witness stand.

His defense team had insisted that hours of FBI wiretap recordings were just the raw, unedited words of a politician thinking out loud. He faces up to 300 years in prison, although sentencing guidelines are cast as serious but more limited have.

He also faces up to five additional years in prison for his perjury conviction at Tuesday's trial.

Blagojevich (remains the second straight Illinois governor convicted of corruption. His predecessor, George Ryan, is now serving six and a half years in federal prison.

When sentenced later this year, Blagojevich is virtually certain to get a significant prison term—four experts said would be 10 to 15 years.

After hearing the verdict, Blagojevich trained to defense attorney Sheldon Sorosky and asked, "What happened?" His wife, Patti, slumped against her brother, then walked across her husband's arms.

The former governor spoke only briefly with reporters as he left the courthouse, saying he was disappointed and stunned by the verdict.

"Well, among the many hours I've talked to you guys, this whole experience is so try to speak a little bit less, so I'm going to keep my remarks kind of short," Blagojevich said, adding that the couple wanted "to get home to our little girls and comfort them and explain things to them and then try to sort things out."

AP

BLAGOJEVICH

Diabetics get world's first blood vessels grown in a lab

MILWAUKEE—Three diabetic patients have received the world's first blood vessels grown in a lab from donated skin cells. It's a key step toward creating a supply of ready-to-use arteries and veins that could be used to treat millions of people with damaged hearts, people having heart bypass surgery and others.

The goal is to use any bare-a-enlightened inventory of these in various sizes and shapes that surgeons would order up as needed like hamburgers and order a medical supplies.

The work so far is still early stage. Three patients in Poland have received the new vessels, which are working well two to eight months later. But doctors are excited because this builds on earlier success in about a dozen patients given blood vessels grown in the lab from their own skin—a process too long and expensive to be practical.

"This version, built from a patient's own cells, is available off the shelf and at a dramatically reduced cost," estimated at $6,000 to $10,000, said Todd McAllister, chief of Cytograft Tissue Engineering Inc., the San Francisco-area company leading the work.

The American Heart Association estimates it is promising that the group featured it on Monday in the first of a new series of articles about cutting-edge science.

"This is tremendously exciting," because the failure of blood vessels used in dialysis is "a huge public health problem," said Duke University's Dr. Robert Harrington, a heart expert who had no role in the work.

It's a larger study getting under way now in Europe and South America to confirm success. "this is big news," Harrington said.

Kidney failure, which is common in diabetics, requires dialysis to filter wastes from the blood through a connection between an artery and a vein called a fistula. It gets punctured several times a week to hook patients up to the dialysis machine, and complications include blood clots, clogging and infection.

What's more, patients often run out of suitable sites for these shunts as problems develop. Plastic versions have high rates of failure and complications, too. Doctors have long worked for a natural substitute.

The lab-grown vessels are free of artificial materials. They are made from cells, as they're not contrived.

Researchers start with a snip of skin from the back of a hand, remove cells and grow them into sheets of tissue that are rolled up like straws to form blood vessels.

So far, those lab-grown vessels have been tolerated by the recipients' immune systems; no anti-rejection medicine or tissue matching is needed. That's not surprising because lab-grown skin is already used to treat burn victims.

"There are literally hundreds of thousands of patients that could use this technology," McAllister said.

Each year, nearly 800,000 Americans undergo dialysis and 400,000 have heart bypasses. More than 140,000 people lose limbs because of poor circulation that might be improved with lab-grown vessels.

About 300,000 people have heart bypass operations using blood vessels taken from other parts of the body to create detours around clogged heart arteries. Some bean patients say the leg wound from removing the long vein to create heart bypasses hurts more than the chest wound from heart surgery.

In 2002, Cytograft reported success with its first attempt at dialysis shunts using patients' own skin. Some of the early work was sponsored by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

The new work, using donor cells, makes this advance more practical for wide use, said Dr. Timothy Gardner, a heart surgeon at Christiana Care Health Services in Newark, Delaware, and former American Heart Association president.

The researchers also opinion on the opportunity for off the shelf goals availability as opposed to something that has to be built from the individual's own cells," he said.

AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Bachmann launches White House bid

WINTERSET, IOWA—Rep. Michele Bachmann stoked off her presidential campaign in Iowa, where a strong finish in the state's early nominating caucus could position the antitax tea party candidate as a serious challenger to more mainstream Republicans hoping to take on President Barack Obama in 2012. It also propelled Bachmann to congressional fame neighboring Minnesota. Bachmann made the announcement on Monday in her birthplace of Waterloo, Iowa holds the first Republican nominating contest, conducted through caucus meetings known as caucuses. The Midwestern state is important for Bachmann. Her popularity among Christian conservatives and tea party activists—she created the tea Party Caucus in Congress—makes her a natural fit for the caucus-style events in Iowa. Her campaign also has ties to the state: Her husband, Marcus, is getting cookouts. A Des Moines Register's Iowa poll released on Saturday showed Bachmann in a statistical tie with perceived Republican front-runner former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, among likely caucus-goers.

AP

Jailed ex-Taiwan leader writes column

TAIPEI—A Taiwanese prison could on Tuesday lifted some the green light to former president Chen Shui-bian to publish his first political column from behind bars. Chen was allowed to send his writing to a magazine after prison authorities found no violation of disciplinary rules, said a spokesperson for Taipei prison, who declined to comment on the content and amount of the articles. Chen's first column, which emailed his lawyer, was due to appear on Wednesday in the weekly Next Magazine, a pro-independence publication. The column came after President Ma Ying-jeou said Chen should be allowed to write the columns during an interview with the Taipei-based Apple Daily newspaper last week. Next Magazine and Apple Daily are published by the same group founded by Hong Kong businessman Jimmy Lai, a critic of mainland China.

AFP

Khmer Rouge leader on trial walks out

PHNOM PENH—A top Khmer Rouge leader on trial for genocide and other atrocities walked out of Cambodia's UN-backed court on Tuesday for a second straight day, in the dismay of survivors. "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea, wearing a neatly hat and his trademark sunglasses, refused to stay for proceedings that will focus on preliminary legal objections by codefendant Ieng Sary, a former foreign minister. "I will walk out and return to my detention facility," Nuon Chea said, adding he would only return to "actively participate" when his own concerns discussed. The 84-year-old was then escorted out by three security guards. The four accused face charges including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes over the deaths of up to two million people from starvation, overwork, torture or execution during the Khmer Rouge's brutal 1975-79 rule.

AFP

Philippine Investment & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO BID FOR ONE (1) LOT 1-YEAR JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR CASINO FILIPINO CITU UNDER ITB NO. 06-11-201 CITU

The Philippine Investment and Gaming Corporation (PIGCOR), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), invites interested bidders to participate in the Casino Filipino Cebu project.

ITB No. 06-11-201 CITU

Contract Duration	One (1) Year
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Group Budget: P10,000,000.00 Lot / Janitorial Services Total Budget: P10,000,000.00 Lot / Janitorial Services
Source of Fund	Internally Generated Funds

The bidding is open to all suppliers, provided that the bidding bidder should be registered with PAGCOR and/or a pre-qualified bidder. Interested suppliers may register and/or pre-qualify with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Casino Filipino Cebu, Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City, tel. (032) 233-8888.

Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years before the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The identification of an eligible contract is subjected to the discretion of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Bidders may purchase the Bidding Documents from the BAC as well as the Performance Information (PCAB) which may be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS).

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to associations or cooperatives duly registered with the Philippine Government, at least sixty percent (60%) of whose members are citizens of the Philippines. Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 9184 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

All prospective bidders including Philippine Government Corporations, Provident Cooperatives, Associations or Partnerships, and Joint Ventures (JV) shall submit the following documents: (a) Valid PhilGEPS Registration Certificate (Platinum Membership) (all documents must be current and updated); (b) Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located; (c) Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, as finally reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); (d) Audited Financial Statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the preceding calendar year; and (e) Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) computation.

Prospective bidders may obtain further information from PAGCOR and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the PhilGEPS and the website of the Philippine Investment and Gaming Corporation (PIGCOR), provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

It is the responsibility of the prospective bidder to check the PhilGEPS website and the PIGCOR website regularly to ensure that all amendments, if any, to the Bidding Documents are duly noted and complied with. Bidders shall submit their bids through the BAC Secretariat at the address given below on or before 10:00 A.M. of July 20, 2011. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

Activity	Date	Time	Opening Time	Place
Pre-bid Conference	July 11, 2011	10:00 A.M.		Casino Filipino Cebu, Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City
Deadline for Submission and Opening of Bids	July 20, 2011	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	Casino Filipino Cebu, Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City

The PIGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information on the foregoing, kindly refer to the Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, Casino Filipino Cebu, Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City, Tel. (032) 233-7777.

ATTY. ANGELITO M. LAGO
Chairman, BAC
Date: June 29, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER for HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CENTRAL VISAYAS
Acacia Lane, Mabolo Subdivision, Camputhaw, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 253-9631
E-MAIL ADDRESS: website: CHDCVAC@yahoo.com

The Center for Health Development-Central Visayas (CHD-CVAC), through Revised Series of 2010 Annual Procurement Plan, from eligible Bidder intends to apply the sum of the following source being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be applied for the Procurement of Various Medicines in the amount of Php 500,000.00 as indicated hereunder in the Bidding Documents, PhilGEPS.

Qty.	Unit	Description	Unit Cost	ABC
1	Lot	Various Medicines	500,000.00	500,000.00
1	Lot	Various Medicines	500,000.00	500,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to manufacturers and/or their duly accredited and/or authorized domestic bidders who have been pre-qualified for the contract in accordance with Section 23.1 of the Bidding Documents.

Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years before the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The identification of an eligible contract is subjected to the discretion of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Bidders may purchase the Bidding Documents from the BAC as well as the Performance Information (PCAB) which may be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS).

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to associations or cooperatives duly registered with the Philippine Government, at least sixty percent (60%) of whose members are citizens of the Philippines. Pursuant to RA 9184 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

All prospective bidders including Philippine Government Corporations, Provident Cooperatives, Associations or Partnerships, and Joint Ventures (JV) shall submit the following documents: (a) Valid PhilGEPS Registration Certificate (Platinum Membership) (all documents must be current and updated); (b) Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located; (c) Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, as finally reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); (d) Audited Financial Statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the preceding calendar year; and (e) Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) computation.

Prospective bidders may obtain further information from CHD-CVAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the PhilGEPS and the website of the Philippine Investment and Gaming Corporation (PIGCOR), provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

It is the responsibility of the prospective bidder to check the PhilGEPS website and the PIGCOR website regularly to ensure that all amendments, if any, to the Bidding Documents are duly noted and complied with. Bidders shall submit their bids through the BAC Secretariat at the address given below on or before 10:00 A.M. of July 20, 2011. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

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The CHD-CVAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information on the foregoing, kindly refer to the Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, Casino Filipino Cebu, Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City, Tel. (032) 233-7777.

DR. LEANDRO C. ESPINOZA
Head, Acacia, Mabolo Subdivision, Camputhaw, Cebu City

Date: June 29, 2011

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ganzon

Gadhafi, son, aide ordered arrested

GADHAFI

TRIPOLI—Thousands of jubilant Libyans danced and cheered in the streets of the rebel stronghold of Benghazi after the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Moammar Gadhafi, accusing him of crimes against humanity for killing civilians who rose up against his rule.

Monday's court order raised pressure on the Gadhafi regime, already targeted by Arab air strikes, and Nato clearly hopes it will encourage key allies to abandon him. But it also gives Gadhafi less incentive to accept a potential settlement that would see him leave power, commanding the Nato drones as well as international backing—because of the subsequent threats of arrest.

The court in The Hague, Netherlands, lacks police powers, and the force most likely to arrest Gadhafi appears to be the rebels fighting to oust him.

At the United Nations, political affairs chief B. Lynn Pascoe said the rebels now hold a massive military advantage over Gadhafi's forces. The rebels have failed to penetrate the Libyan leader's center of power in Tripoli and now cordoned such leaders they are unlikely to detain Gadhafi or others soon.

Warrants were also issued for Gadhafi's son Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, whom he has groomed to be his successor, and for Libyan intelligence chief Abdullah al-Senoussi. All three men were accused of orchestrating the killing, injuring, arrest and imprisonment of hundreds of civilians during the first 12 days of the uprising to topple Gadhafi from power, and for trying to cover up their alleged crimes.

Presiding Judge Sanji Monir Gaing of Botswana said Gadhafi had "absolute, ultimate and unquestioned control" over his country's military and security forces. He said prosecutors presented evidence showing that following popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, Gadhafi and his inner circle plotted a "state policy ... aimed at thwarting and quelling by any means—including by the use of lethal force—demonstrations by civilians against the regime."

Hundreds of civilians were killed, injured or tortured, and there were "reasonable grounds to believe" that Gadhafi and his son were both responsible for the murder and persecution of civilians, the said.

Gadhafi's regime rejected the court's authority and dismissed the charges as politically motivated.

"This court is nothing but a cover for the military operations of Nato," said Justice Minister Mohammed Al-Qumudi. "The ICC does not really mean anything for us Libyans because we are not party to it and because it's merely a political tool for exerting pressure and political blackmail against sovereign countries... It has become clear that it's a tool of imperialism."

Hours after the arrest warrants were announced, dozens of pro-government supporters stormed the grounds of a Tripoli hotel where foreign journalists are required to stay, shouting slogans in support of the leader, who has held power since 1969. AP

Tepco shareholders vent ire on mg't

TOKYO—Angry Tepco shareholders and protesters on Tuesday called on the firm to abandon nuclear power, and slammed management for their handling of the nuclear's worst atomic accident after the March quake-tsunami.

More 800 police officers were deployed around the hotel where Tokyo Electric Power Co. held its first shareholder meeting since the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami battered its Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Tepco shares have lost around 80 percent of their value since a raging wall of water crippled cooling systems at the facility, with three reactors suffering meltdowns and spewing radiation into the environment.

The government has put forward a public-private scheme to ensure Tepco can meet massive compensation, but protesters wanted to see Hiroki Nakai under the direct weight of billions of yen in costs or it bankrupts under the plans.

A record 9,130 shareholders attended Tuesday's three gathering, with many demanding the company scrap nuclear energy and framing it the company's history of repeated safety coverups.

"I want to thank you with the company. They never changed after repeated problems," said shareholder Fumikazu, who declined to give her first name.

"I would like to tell Tepco that we no longer need nuclear power. I never expected a Type A-rated company would end up like this. I think the accident is a man-made disaster," said Tomo Ogawa, 60-year-old shareholder.

Around 90,000 people have been evacuated from their homes, towns and businesses in a 20-kilometer zone around the radiation-spewing plant, with evacuation problems also further afield.

A group of protesters from Fukushima also gathered in front of the hotel. Kosuke Tejima, 29, left Koriyama city, Fukushima prefecture, before disasters took part in the rally.

"The accident deprived children of their right to live a healthy life, young people of hope to work in Fukushima, and elderly people of what they had built in their lives," she said.

Tepco officials were seated during the meeting in which they again apologized for the accident, as 402 shareholders called on Tepco to abandon nuclear power.

"The company should unconditionally withdraw from nuclear power generation that is entrusted up with lies, leaves a negative legacy to our children into the future, and imposes a burden on the local community," the proposal read.

However, analysts say the resolution is unlikely to be adopted as the firm has 746,027 shareholders with voting rights.

One shareholder stood up and demanded Tepco clear Fukushima forecasts be discussed during the meeting.

"We left our Fukushima farm, [for management, Fukushimans, Japan and the world can't go back to what we used to be before the accident. I want believe in you," a weeping female shareholder told the meeting to rounds of applause.

"You should have resigned right after March 11," Mr. Nakai said.

Many households across the country pay almost Tepco shares as long-term assets enjoy big stable and relatively high dividend yields, given its position as a power supplier to Tokyo and the Kanto region—an area that contributes more than a third of the nation's gross domestic product. AFP

CLAD in white radiation protection gear, Greenpeace activists hold a banner denouncing Tokyo Electric Power Co. (Tepco) before its shareholders meeting in Tokyo on June 28.

From Ninoy to Noynoy:
25 Years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

From Ninoy to Noynoy: 25 years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer" charts the last 25 years of Philippine history through the pages, photos, editorials and events chronicled in the last quarter century's newspaper of record.

From the rage in the streets, and the many stories in between, the Inquirer's 25th anniversary offering highlights the resilience and heroism of Filipinos through the waning days of the Marcos dictatorship, the heady days of Edsa People Power I, the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions of the early 1990s to the second Edsa People Power I at the turn of the century. It ends in the beginning, at the eve of the worldwide economic crisis and the hard-fought election of the country's 15th president.

Alongside the history of the "democratic project," the book is also the story of the Inquirer's growth. It traces years from a paper floundering by a cash-not engagement ring to a group of over a dozen publications with a presence on the broadcast, cable and online media.

Books are available at the:
Inquirer Corporate Affairs office, Inquirer Bldg., Pasong Tamo cor. Ilaya cor. Q. Gil, Brgy. Valenzuela, Makati City
Free delivery for a minimum order of 10 books
To order, please call Bianca Bautista at 897-8000 loc. 552 or 899-0326
E-mail: bautistab@inquirer.com.ph

Greece faces general strike

ATHENS—Workers across Greece walked off the job on Tuesday at the start of a 48-hour general strike to torpedo debate a new round of austerity reforms, which must be passed if the country is to get crucial bailout funds.

More than 5,000 police were to guard citizens' city centers, as thousands of protesters held a rally outside the heavily guarded parliamentary chamber. Another demonstration is scheduled to start later in the morning.

Everyone from doctors and ambulance drivers to customs officials and even actors at a state-funded theater are set to join the two-day strike as hold work stoppages for assorted hours.

Hundreds of flights were canceled or rescheduled as air traffic controllers walked off the job for four hours from 8 a.m. Another walkout is reported in the evening.

There were further disruptions as public transport workers joined the strike, causing traffic across the capital, while pensioners blockaded the port of Piraeus.

Unions are angry at a new 28-billion-euro ($40-billion) austerity program that would slap taxes on consumer-wage earners and other struggling Greeks. The planned measures come on top of other spending cuts and tax hikes, which have crushed hopes in the country's battered middle class in recent years.

The package and an additional implementation measure must be passed in parliamentary votes on Wednesday and on Thursday so the European Union and the International Monetary Fund release the next installment of Greece's 110-billion-euro ($160-billion) bailout loan.

Without the 12-billion-euro installment, Greece faces the prospect next month of becoming the first eurozone country to default on its debts—a potentially disastrous event that could drag down European banks and affect other financially troubled European countries. AP

Elderly woman told to remove diaper for pat-down, nearly misses flight

DEERFIELD BEACH, FLORIDA—A grandpa ill 95-year-old woman had to remove her wet diaper at an airport so that she could be patted down by security screeners and nearly missed her flight, her daughter said on Monday.

During the pat-down, Transportation Security Administration inspectors found a moist spot on the diaper that had become heavy and concentrated in that place because it was wet, Pepper, who is in a wheelchair, had to be patted down because she couldn't go through a scanning machine, and the TSA agents said they could not touch the diaper while she was still wearing it, Weber said.

Pepper couldn't board a June 18 flight from Southwest Florida Regional Airport in Fort Myers, South to Detroit until she was cleared by security, Weber said. Pepper, who has leukemia and had been living in the Florida Panhandle, was returning to her native Saginaw, Michigan, where she wants to be buried.

Weber, a woman, said she was told the diaper would have to be removed so the agents could finish their pat-down. They had not packed any spare diapers in their carry-on because her mother has never needed backups before.

"She had to remove them," Weber said. "She would not be cleared with those Depends on."

TSA officials said the agency's inspectors did nothing wrong and followed proper procedure. Spokesperson Nikki Kimball also said the officers did not force Pepper to remove the diaper.

"While every person and item must be screened before entering the secure boarding area, TSA works with passengers to resolve security issues in a respectful and sensitive manner," Kimball said.

Officials offered to pull their luggage off the plane as Pepper could change in to a clean diaper, but Weber said she feared her mother, a retired nurse, would miss her flight.

"She is bold. I had arranged for three stewardesses it's the time she was the strongest every day," Weber said. "I just did not want to put her through extra kind of stuff."

TSA has tightened security after a Nigerian man was charged with trying to ignite explosives he had hidden in his underwear on a flight to Detroit from Europe on Christmas Day 2009. AP

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BUSINESS

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Group lists 200 recommendations for P-Noy

Urges action on corruption, criminality, climate change

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines has drawn up more than 200 recommendations on 25 different sectors and issues for possible inclusion in President Aquino's upcoming State of the Nation Address.

In a briefing covering MAP president Felino Palafox Jr. said the group "is out to help increase the competitiveness of the country by focusing on three key issues: corruption, criminality and climate change. These were all considered in the group's recommendations, which were submitted to President Aquino.

The recommendations were prepared by MAP's 23 task forces, which included those for airport improvement, Conditional Cash Transfer Program, anti-corruption in procurement, anti-corruption and anti-smuggling, climate change and disaster

(BOUR B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

43.570

STOCK MARKET

0.7

Stocks end higher

LOCAL STOCKS closed slightly higher yesterday alongside global optimism that the final contagion in the epic could be contained happening with the resolution of the crisis in Greece.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange index added 0.7 point or 0.01% percent to finish at 4,398.90. The index climbed just the crucial 4,400 barrier to intra-day trade, hitting one from the up-hand over night trading in Wall Street, but failed to close above this line on the to late-session profit-taking.

Dealers said the market rises to be cautious given that US futures indicated a potential decline in Wall Street in the next session. "We're still in a consolidation mode," one dealer said.

Overnight, the Dow Jones industrial index rallied 108.88 points or 0.91 percent to 12,002.06 on news that French banks have agreed to undertake

Unrest 0.003.

The marginal rise by the local index was supported by modest gains of the financial and services counters, which offset the

(STOCKS B2)

Imports up, factory output down in April

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE COUNTRY'S total merchandise imports for April rose 20.3 percent to $5.5 billion from $5.6 billion a year ago, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).

March was no exception. Imports declined slightly by 0.9 percent from $5.5 billion recorded in March this year.

Also in April, the volume of production for selected industries posted a slower growth rate of 2.6 percent from a year earlier, also according to NSO data.

Imports grew year-on-year because of an increased inventory of semiconductors in preparation for busier production in the second half of the year, according to Cid Terosa, an economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific.

However, Terosa said factory output declined due to a holiday of production in prep for the third and fourth quarter.

"The second quarter is usually a slower period for factory production," Terosa said.

NSO documents showed that merchandise (April) amounted to $9.8 billion, or 10.8 percent higher than the $8.2 billion in the same month last year. The balance of trade in goods last April was a deficit of $1.2 billion compared to last year's deficit of $957 million.

Raw materials and intermediate goods accounted for 43.2 percent of total imports at $2.4 billion. This was up 45.2 percent from last year's $1.7 billion. Compared to the previous month's $1.9 billion, this was down 35.6 percent.

Imports of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials surged 60.1 percent to $1.4 billion from $866 million in April last year.

The United States accounted for 11.3 percent of the total import bill or $600.5 million in April, an increase of 26.3 percent from $481.74 million a year ago.

Meanwhile, a separate NSO report said

(IMPORTS B2)

BDO issues ₱8.5B in tier 2 debt notes at 6.5% a year

Amount increased due to strong demand

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S largest bank, Banco De Oro Unibank Inc., has successfully raised P8.5 billion worth of debt notes qualifying as tier 2 or supplementary capital.

The tier 2 notes were priced at 6.5 percent a year and have a maturity of 10 years and 3 months from the June 23 issue date. BDO has the option to call or redeem the notes after five years from issue date.

"The recently successful issuance of tier 2 bonds is meant to enhance BDO's capital base and support its medium-term growth targets," the bank said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

As earlier disclosed, BDO shareholders approved the offer period and upsized the offering from the original issue size of P5 billion due to strong demand from retail and institutional investors.

Deutsche Bank AG (Manila Branch) and The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. acted as joint lead arrangers, joint bookrunners and selling agents for the transaction. Multinational investment bank corporation was also designated selling agent and market maker while BDO acted as lead selling agent for the transaction.

The notes will pay quarterly interest and will be tax exempt for individual investors if held for more than five years.

The debt sale comes as many banks in the Philippines and abroad seek to increase their capital adequacy ratio to cover any rise in loan demand given the improving global economy. The capital-strengthening is also aimed at meeting, if not surpassing, international standards.

BDO earlier obtained authority from banking regulators to issue P15 billion in debt notes qualifying as tier 2 or supplementary capital over a one-year period as part of its expansion plan.

BDO was among the first local banks to sell tier 2 notes this year after the window to tap this instrument was reopened early this year with the issuance of a new framework for capital-raising by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

BDO is controlled by tycoon Henry Sy Jr.'s SM group, which also owns the controlling stake in China Banking Corp.

Airport scramble

APART FROM the San Miguel and First Pacific groups, the Lucio Tan-led group is also scouting for opportunities in infrastructure, particularly in airport terminals that will be privatized by the government. The consortium that's eyeing participating in the bidding for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) as well as the Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA), which could be the main gateway to Metro Manila in the future. A source from the family told *Biz Buzz* that the NAIA privatization would be a lot more lucrative, however, if all three terminals would be handed out to a single private sector concessionaire instead of bidding out terminals 1, 2 and 3 on a piece-meal basis.

After the deal-sealing by the First Pacific group control of toll-road bigwig, which operates the Skyway, Star Tollway, NLEX-Subic Tollway and the Cavitex toll expressway, after winning the bidding to acquire 30 percent of the shares of Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC

DBP sets up credit facility for overseas Filipino workers

Loans to finance up to 80% of businesses

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines has set up a financing facility called the "OFW Entrepreneurship Program" to provide loans and other financial products to returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

The facility is intended as a financing the national government's plan of providing income and investment opportunities to overseas-based Filipinos, with a medium to long-term goal of encouraging them to eventually go back to the Philippines and stay with their families for good.

The facility offers benefits to OFWs and their families to fund their business plans. The facility also offers financial products that will help the target market grow their assets.

"The DBP hopes that through the OFW Entrepreneurship Program, we shall be able to help maximize the impact of Filipino workers and their families to enhance culture of savings, investment and entrepreneurship, along with the values of honesty, discipline and hard work necessary for poverty reduction and economic empowerment of our communities," DBP president Francisco del Rosario Jr. said in a statement.

Those who are avail themselves of the DBP's program are OFWs registered with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)—with ongoing or finished employment contracts.

DBP said these members could apply for a loan equivalent to 80 percent of the cost of a business venture and must range from P500,000 to P2 million.

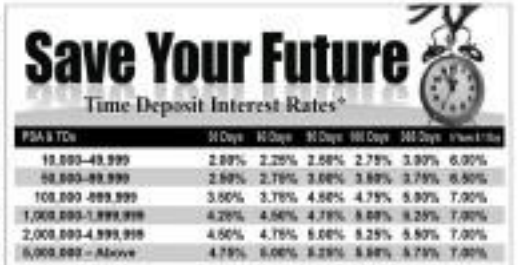
Loans from the facility are to amortize in terms ran of 7.5 percent, reviewable every year and payable over seven years.

"Loans may be used for construction, renovation, expansion or repair of building for use as business site; working capital for business venture; acquisition of equipment; and other business-related purposes," DBP said.

DBP said the facility would give priority to investments involving the following industries: franchising, tourism and related industries, health care and allied industries, and agribusiness and related businesses.

Imelda Nicolas, secretary of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), earlier said the government, through the office of the branch, has started drafting a road map that would create an environment that provides sufficient investment and income opportunities in OFW-related businesses with the end goal of encouraging OFWs to get back home.

She said providing more income-generating opportunities within the country was necessary to allow migrants to get back home without worrying about the financial security of their families.



SSS says salary loans increasing

By Karen M. Domingo

MORE salary loans from the Social Security System were availed of as more members regained eligibility to borrow due partly to a less penalty condonation program that ends June 30.

Edgar Sollaqui, SSS officer in charge, said in a statement that pensioners had availed around 69% in billion-a salary loans for some 250,000 members in the first quarter.

The amount was 41 percent higher than the P49 billion for the same period last year, Sollaqui said.

"The first-quarter releases included records of employed members who regained eligibility to avail their maximum salary loan after settlement of their overdue maturities under the condonation program," he added.

Sollaqui explained that employers must be updated in remitting contributions and loan amortizations to enable their employees to be eligible for salary loans.

"He said on delinquent employers to avail [themselves] of the program, before it ends on June 30," he said.

The program allow employers the opportunity to settle overdue loans of their employees without paying the one percent penalty monthly.

Employers can pay in full within the six-month settlement period or in nine installment payments for up to 24 months.

E-Copy Corp. launches new Cloud Computing Capability with PLDT

Technology continues to pose by leaps and bounds. Data management and solutions are changing every minute. Those options are tools that allow the streamlining of workflow as well as the maximization of profits.

But the speed of technological evolution also has some unfavourable effects that sometimes translate into losses or inconveniences. This happens when the development of new information technology renders previous technological investments obsolete. The need to stay abreast with changing times can be expensive if companies make the wrong decisions on which technologies to invest in.

eCopy Corporation understands these dilemmas and is consistently committed to providing not only document solutions but also document management strategies. E-Copy's vision rotates around being a provider of multi-function printer machines. Its company culture is focused on service and partnership with its Clients. This is why it continues to find ways in which its products can provide the maximum benefit to the Client's business.

This year, eCopy Corp. in partnership with PLDT, has launched a new system which capitalizes on "cloud computing" technology for a more efficient management, storage and transfer of data and documents.

Cloud Computing is a concept developed in the early part of the decade. It is a system that utilizes the immense data capability of an infinite number of servers accessible through the world wide web. E-Copy Corp. has married this remarkable new technology with the flexible capabilities of its Simply Multi-Function Printers (MFPs) and offers this as a powerful new business tool that will be very useful to a wide range of industries (please provide list of industries with growing document management needs).

PLDT has rightfully partnered with eCopy Corp. as the company has proven to provide an extensive range of capabilities that can truly maximize the benefits of its "cloud computing" technology for business operations. The service expands data management capabilities such as document archiving, data retrieval, data & document workflow all protected by highly reliable data security technology. This service is available through PLDT monthly subscriptions.

More information on PLDT eCopy Cloud Computing Service, call 845-8384 (eCopy) or "27" (PLDT) or visit http://appfarm.philcomcare.com/ecopy/.

Entrepreneur BusinessWorld BCD-PINPOINT

BUSINESS

Foreign firms keen on PH's natural gas sector

By Amy R. Raros

SINGAPORE CONSORTIUM based in Australia, India, China, Korea and Hong Kong have signified to the Philippine government their intentions to invest in the local natural gas sector, particularly in building liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, pipelines and gas-fired power plants.

Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. identified three companies in Asia Pacific Capital and Energy World of Australia; BMS Energy Holdings of China Synergy Investment of Hong Kong; ESS Support of India; and SK Engineering and Construction Co. Ltd., Korea Western Power, JW Ventures and Hyundai Merchant Marine, all of South Korea.

EPI Power Ltd. of the Netherlands, which is currently building a 600-megawatt coal facility in the country's downstream natural gas industry.

Based on the original master plan, investments were needed to construct 423 kilometers of transmission and 504 sq. km. of distribution pipelines.

Priority projects include the 140-km pipeline from Batangas to Manila (Bulk-1); 40-km Echo-Tabangao (Bulk-2); 40-km Echo-Taft loop; 45-km from Batangas to Mindoro; 40 km from Batangas to Cavite (Bulk-Cavite); 35 km from Batangas to Batangas (Bulk-3); and the 50-km Calaca-Dasmariñas (Cal-Das). The $5 billion in needed investments will also include gas-fired power plant projects that could generate a combined 3,000 MW and power plant conversion projects that could generate 600 MW.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras said the Department of Energy (DOE) is expecting the Philippine Natural Gas will re-validate these opportunities and identify which infrastructure will be deemed as priority projects, and what kind of investments will be needed. It will also evaluate the viability of importing natural gas and the potential sources.

Among the possible LNG sources are Indonesia, Malaysia, Qatar, Oman and Australia, which is known to hold huge natural gas deposits. Layug added that the Malampaya gas-to-power project, which can readily provide natural gas to these facilities in Luzon, will not be the main source of gas, he added.

Building LNG terminal, power plant, pipeline

Meanwhile, Energy plans to promote, in the local natural gas industry. There are also three Indian companies interested in helping the Philippine government put up the necessary LNG infrastructure, but Layug did not identify them.

Several local companies are also keen on taking an active part in the development of the natural gas sector. These include state-run Philippine National Oil Co., listed firm Alsons Consolidated Resources, which will be partnering with LNG-Japanese oil hub, and the Lopez-led First Gen Corp., Layug said in previous.

"We are completing our master plan for natural gas through technical assistance by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and World Bank. By second. After we complete the plan and results are favorable, we will then conduct public bidding for each infrastructure projects next year," Layug said.

The Department of Energy estimated that $5 billion in fresh investments would be needed to fully develop

SALN: A financially enriching tool

Efren U. Cruz

QUESTION: *I want to start planning for my financial future. But I am just an employee with a modest pay. I don't expect a salary increase anytime soon. Schools out here the time or the money to go on my finances through investing in the financial markets or in a sole business. I am seemingly handcuffed to stand back. What should I do?—Stephanie (not real name), 1000 Philippine compound*

Answer: The Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth or SALN required of government employees and politicians is actually a good thing. In fact, everyone should prepare their own SALN. Take note, the official word is "prepare." I am not for legislating that SALN should be submitted by everyone.

SALN involves nothing more than coming up with your own balance sheet. And the knowledge of what you own (assets) to what you owe (debts) can be a powerful thing. SALN can help you to list as of today the market value of all of your assets on the liquidation value of all of your outstanding debts. A good measure of the market value of assets is to see what they would be worth if you were to sell them today. Liquidation value, on the other hand, is the amount needed, including taxes and penalties on part does if you to fully settle debts today.

At an in training program, I find that people are not always aware that they already own sizeable assets. I see smiles on their faces when, after listing their assets, I ask them if they know beforehand that they owned such significant assets. However, some of them are quick to say that they also have debts. Typically, after they list their debts, the smiles stay while the others turn into frowns. Some are downright dismayed because their debts (cars) are larger than their assets. What I own versus what I owe results in my net worth. Those with debts larger than assets have negative net worth.

There I simply ask them two questions. First, I ask them to figure out how they got to where they are now. This exercise brings a lot of knowledge and "aha" moments to my participants. And these learnings are the reason why I encourage spouses to attend my training sessions together because we jointly responsible for these households' financial destinations. Making either (s) to correct blame each other).

Next I ask them if a positive net worth is enough. The answer is no, even if the resulting positive net worth is large. The first way to find out if assets and debts are managed properly is to apply some simple financial ratios. I will not go into those ratios in this article. For you can use the ratios yourself by doing a simple financial health check. Visit our web site at www.personalfinance.ph and click on the Our Financial Health check button in the lower page.

What I will share is that if a household's assets are acquired only through one of two means, debts or the household's own money. For example, if a household's assets are mostly

BUSINESS

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Baguio City gets raw end of John Hay deal

LGU in debt because of CJHDevco's refusal to pay lease

By Abigail L. Ho

THE REFUSAL of the Subic-based Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) to remit its lease payments to the Bases Conversion and Development Authority for the Camp John Hay property has prevented the Baguio City government from completing its acquisition of the Baguio Convention Center.

According to BCDA vice president Dean Domingo, the Baguio City government was supposed to use the proceeds from the John Hay properties lease to acquire the convention center. The local government is entitled to 25 percent of the lease payments made to BCDA.

Under an agreement between BCDA and the Baguio City government inked in 2004, the BCDA would directly remit to the Government Service Insurance System, owner of the Baguio Convention Center, Baguio City's payment for the acquisition, Domingo said.

However, since CJHDevco stopped remitting lease payments for the Camp John Hay property to BCDA, Baguio City's payment for the convention center had likewise ceased, Domingo said.

"CJHDevco's refusal to pay its rental obligations to BCDA is prejudicial to the people of Baguio City," the BCDA executive said.

CJHDevco's unremitted arrears had ballooned to P2.4 billion, plus another P102 million in unpaid taxes from December 2009 to June 2011.

Had CJHDevco been faithful in remitting its lease payments to BCDA, Domingo said Baguio City would have been able to make the remaining payments for the convention center and would not have incurred interest, which now amounts to P1.26 billion.

Baguio City's outstanding balance was reduced to P2.15 million from P12.8 million, following BCDA's recent remittance of P60.4 million and the DOF decision to waive P80 million in interest charges.

BSP clears P71T in transactions

By Michelle V. Ramos

BASIC TRANSACTIONS that passed through the clearinghouse system of the National Bank jumped by over 40 percent in the first quarter from a year ago, as growth of the economy during the period required more bank-facilitated payments.

Therefore the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas deemed that transactions cleared through the Philippine Payments and Settlement System (PhilPaSS) amounted to P71 trillion in the first quarter, up by 42 percent from only P50 billion in the same period last year.

The figure boosted expectations that the economy's growth in 2011 would be better than that of last year.

Total transactions that passed through PhilPaSS in 2010 amounted to P286.6 billion, up by almost 10 percent from the P 261.5 trillion posted in 2009.

PhilPaSS is where bank transactions, such as payments using checks, remittances and foreign currency trades, are cleared.

The BSP said the growth in PhilPaSS transactions was anticipated since it is a consequence of a growing economy.

The government earlier reported that the economy, measured in terms of gross domestic product, grew by 4.9 percent in the first quarter of 2011 from that of last year.

MORE AND MORE TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS COMPANIES GO FOR BPI LEASING TO GROW THEIR BUSINESS

BPI 160 AND BEYOND

With BPI Leasing, cargo, logistics and transport companies continue moving forward.

One such company is Royal Cargo (undoubtedly Logistics, a multi-modal cargo business that is into transport, warehousing, shipping and more. To keep their dynamic business going, the company has to keep up with the growing requirements of their equally demanding clientele. This is the very same reason why the company has turned to leasing with only one name in mind.

According to Chief Operating Officer, Oliver Carmencita, *"BPI has been our bank of choice for more than 20 years now and they have supported us all these years. BPI Leasing surely knows how critical leasing is in our business. With our growing demand for specialized cargo delivery, they provided us not only a lease term that fits our financial capacity, but also the means that enabled us to cater to the new needs of clients on a timely basis with no need for collateral."*

Another great story comes from Rudy Mago of DBS Shuttle Transport Services and Delta Rent-a-Car. The business is mainly involved in the transporting of employees of multinational semi-conductor companies located in the manufacturing and industrial zone areas in Cavite, Laguna and Batangas.

Mago notes, *"These companies operate 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, so we transport employees by the hundreds in a 2 or 3 shift basis."*

Having been in the business for the past 16 years, Mago recalls starting with only 5 buses. In the span of 4 years, Mr. Mago increased that number to 70. Currently, the company has 150 buses in operation.

Mago admits owing a great part of the growing success to BPI Leasing. *"BPI Leasing has been very supportive in terms of giving us credit and flexible lease terms, especially when we really needed them the most. With lower interest rates and customized payment terms, we were readily able to cope with the demands for expansion, exactly as our clients need it. BPI Leasing lets us expand on demand!"*

Moving people and cargo won't take much with the right funding sources and the right business partner. Take the lead in your business today with the BPI Leasing advantage!

Elmer Francisco Sarmiento, Chief Operating Officer, Royal Cargo (Luzon) Corporation

Rudy Mago, President, DBS Shuttle Service

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Provincial Government of Cebu, thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Project	Supply, Delivery and Installation of 22 sets, 60 KV TRANSFORMER
Deliverables	1. Engineering/Design 2. Right of Way Negotiation 3. Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning
Approved Budgetary Ceiling	Ninety Four million Nine Hundred Ten Thousand Pesos (P94,910,000.00)
No. of Units to Supply	Twenty Two Pieces (22) 60 KV Power Transformers
Contract Period	Eight (8) Months

2. Interested parties shall have the right to bid on the schedule stated above. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using the non-discretionary "Pass/Fail" criteria as specified in the Local Procurement Rules.

3. Interested parties may obtain further information and purchase bid documents from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, the non-refundable amount prescribed below from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., starting July 11, 2011. Only those who have purchased the Bid Documents shall be allowed to participate the Pre-Bid Conference on July 15, 2011 / 10:30 a.m. Eligibility Documents, Technical Proposals, and Financial Proposal shall be properly segregated, duly marked as such, and submitted to the BAC Secretariat on or before August 4, 2011 / 10:00 a.m.

All bids submitted must be accompanied with a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bid Documents. Bid security shall be valid at least 120 days from the date of the bid opening. Post-qualified bids shall be valid until 120 days after bidding.

3. The Provincial Government of Cebu reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract to any of the bidders pursuant to the Local Procurement Policy, and in no event shall the Provincial Government of Cebu be liable for damages.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat at the address given below from 8 a.m to 5 p.m. daily.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents is available and may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below on July 5, 2011, upon submission of a letter of request and payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)**.

6. The BAC will hold a **Pre-Bidding Conference on July 8, 2011 at 10 a.m.** at the **BAC Conference Room (BAN) Building, Cebu Capitol, Cebu City**, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the bid documents.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **July 26, 2011 at 10 a.m. at the BAC Conference Room (BAN) Building, Cebu Capitol, Cebu City.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bid Documents.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. The Provincial Government of Cebu reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract to any of the bidders pursuant to the Local Procurement Policy, and in no event shall the Provincial Government of Cebu be liable for damages.

9. For further information, please refer to:

LEO CARDENAS M. MACUJA III
Provincial Engineer's Office
Bids and Awards Committee
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 255-5555
Fax No. (032) 255-5555
www.cebu.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **MANUEL M. MARTINGHOLA**
Chairperson

Posted at the BAC Bulletin Board
www.cebu.gov.ph (website)

(PEN - June 29, 2011)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Provincial Government of Cebu, thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project	**FOUR MILLION NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND SEVENTY FOUR AND NO/100, PHILIPPINE PESOS (PHP 4,900,074.00)**
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Same as Project Name
Term of Contract	Six months
Delivery Period	July 2011

2. All bids by the aforementioned benchmark must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash (1% of ABC) or Cashier's/Manager's check or Bank's Draft (5% of ABC) or Surety Bond callable on demand (Government Bonds are not acceptable).

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships or organizations with at least sixty-five percent (65%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat at the address given below from 8 a.m to 5 p.m. daily.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents is available and may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below on July 5, 2011, upon submission of a letter of request and payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)**.

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Tel. No. (032) 255-5555
Fax No. (032) 255-5555
www.cebu.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **MANUEL M. MARTINGHOLA**
Chairperson

Posted at the BAC Bulletin Board
www.cebu.gov.ph (website)

(PEN - June 29, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RETIREMENT AUTHORITY
Bids and Awards Committee
3/F Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Tel. No(s) 812-11-11 / Fax: 892-1538

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Re: Appointment of a Bank Advertising Agency

1. The Philippine Retirement Authority through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project	Appointment of Bank Advertising Agency
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	**₱ 3,000,000.00**
Term of Contract	Six months
Delivery Period	July 2011

2. All bids by the aforementioned benchmark must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash (1% of ABC) or Cashier's/Manager's check or Bank's Draft (5% of ABC) or Surety Bond callable on demand (Government Bonds are not acceptable).

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships or organizations with at least sixty-five percent (65%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat at the address given below from 8 a.m to 5 p.m. daily.

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7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **July 26, 2011 at 10 a.m. at the BAC Conference Room (BAN) Building, Cebu Capitol, Cebu City.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bid Documents.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. The Philippine Retirement Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:
MR. LUDOMERIO M. GARCIA
Acting Chairperson
Philippine Retirement Authority
28/F Citibank Tower, Paseo De Roxas
Cor. Perez St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 812-11-11 Loc. 1210 or 892-1538

(Sgd.) LUDOMERIO M. GARCIA
Acting Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PEN - June 29, 2011)

FIRST BUKIDNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Andrason, Buenong, Bukidnon
Trunk line: (088) 396-1923 / Tel. No. (088) 396-1926

INVITATION TO BID

The First Bukidnon Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FIBECO), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following schedules:

Schedule I	
Project	Supply, Delivery and Installation of 22 sets, 69 KV TRANSFORMER
Deliverables	1. Engineering/Design 2. Right of Way Negotiation 3. Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning
Approved Budgetary Ceiling	Ninety Four million Nine Hundred Ten Thousand Pesos (P94,910,000.00)
No. of Units to Supply	Twenty Two Pieces (22) 69 KV Power Transformers
Contract Period	Eight (8) Months

Interested parties shall have the right to bid on the schedule stated above. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using the non-discretionary "Pass/Fail" criteria as specified in the Local Procurement Rules.

Interested parties may obtain further information and purchase bid documents from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, the non-refundable amount prescribed below from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., starting July 11, 2011. Only those who have purchased the Bid Documents shall be allowed to participate the Pre-Bid Conference on July 15, 2011 / 10:30 a.m. Eligibility Documents, Technical Proposals, and Financial Proposal shall be properly segregated, duly marked as such, and submitted to the BAC Secretariat on or before August 4, 2011 / 10:00 a.m.

All bids submitted must be accompanied with a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bid Documents. Bid security shall be valid at least 120 days from the date of the bid opening. Post-qualified bids shall be valid until 120 days after bidding.

FIBECO reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any minor defects or irregularities therein, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding, or not to award the contract to any of the bidders pursuant to the Local Procurement Policy, and in no event shall we may be considered incriminating/guilty to FIBECO.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ANTONIO A. OBIDO, JR.
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) ENGR. RONATO S. CORTEJANO
General Manager

(PEN - June 29 & July 6, 2011)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Multinational Energy Center, 6th Floor, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
PNOC
Trunk Line: (632) 840-2100 Fax No. (632) 840-2111

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC), through its BAC Chairman, invites the qualified **Bidders Who Must Submit Only Technical Documents to the Bid Box, opening of which shall be on July 18, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.** for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Two (2) Units Diesel Engine Driven Centrifugal Fire Pump Sets, Complete with Accessories, Materials, Fabrication and Testing, Pre-Shipment Inspection and Delivery to PNOC-EC Malampaya Project Facilities, Batangas, Philippines.

PNOC-EC now invites bidders to the Supply and Delivery of Direct Lined Fiberglass Sleeves of the Guide or Injection Wing Type with Carbide Wear Layer Measured at Pipeline Shop Welded Ready for Installation Complete with Accessories, Materials, Fabrication and Testing, Pre-Shipment Inspection and Delivery to the Project Site. Bidders shall be qualified after a successful Pre-Bid Conference and Post-Qualification.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty-five percent (65%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from PNOC-EC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00))**.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **July 18, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bid Documents.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC-EC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare failure of bidding, or not award the contract to any of the bidders without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:
Procurement Section
Bids and Awards Committee
PNOC Exploration Corporation
Multinational Energy Center, 6th Floor, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 840-2100 Fax No. (632) 840-2111

(Sgd.) ENGR. ANTONIO A. OBIDO, JR.
BAC Chairman

(PEN - June 29, 2011)

La Union Electric Cooperative, Inc. - (LUELCO)
City Pension Complex, Urbano Street
Tel/Fax: (072) 888-5196, 774-5618 Fax No. (072) 774-5618

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **LA UNION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LUELCO)** through this bids and awards committee (BAC) is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit the following:

LOT I - AIRCO AND ALL DEVICES WITH APPLICATION SOFTWARE
a. MOBILE LOADER — 01 Unit
b. POINT HOLE PRINTER — 03 Units
c. WIFI WITH ANTENNA AND WIRELESS PROCESSOR — 1Unit

LOT II - MOBILE EVS POINT TO POINT / MULTIPOINT SOLUTION
a. IP RADIO, SWITCH TYPE, UPS, CABLES, EXTERNAL ANTENNA
b. ANTENNA TOWER

Interested bidders may obtain the list of eligibility requirements, bidding documents and other bidding details from BAC Secretariat starting **June 29, 2011** during office hours from Monday to Friday **8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.** and may be downloaded from www.luelco.com.ph/post.html.

- BID DOCUMENT FEES -

LOT I - Php 10,000.00 LOT II - Php 10,000.00

Pre-bidding conference and Product Demo must be attended by all interested bidders on **July 18, 2011, 9:00 A.M. at LUELCO Function Hall, Sto. Rita East, Bangar, La Union.** Personal appearance of the bidder or any of its authorized representative is required. Opening of Bids will be on **August 03, 2011, Wednesday at 1:00 P.M.** in the afternoon.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements will be on or before **July 26, 2011.** Bidders are also required to submit to the BAC, Technical and Financial proposals in separate envelopes properly labeled and sealed which will be opened on the date of bidding in the presence of all participating bidders.

All participants must be in eligibility, bids evaluation and awards shall be governed by the provisions of the supply policy on Procurement through Public Bidding.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the bid for any justifiable and reasonable grounds where the award of the bid will not redound to the benefits of the cooperative and that the LUELCO shall not be liable for whatever expenses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ENGR. JOVENCIO S. ARANJUEZ, PEE
BAC Chairman

(PEN - June 29 & July 6, 2011)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Maria Milagros B. Torres

Notice is hereby given to the public that MS. MARIA MILAGROS B. TORRES is actively pursuing appeals above is no longer connected with SUBMARINE LAND CORPORATION as effective February 1, 2011.

Any transaction entered into by MS. MARIA MILAGROS B. TORRES for and in behalf of SUBMARINE LAND CORPORATION will no longer be honored.

Kindly report all transactions with the above named person to Ms. Olive Ingalla at (02) 8638-9671.

(PEN - June 29, 2011)

Read JOB Interview
Where every bet Samantha. Inquirer does the job Number one page in the Philippines!

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

SHIERILYN L. BATACAN

Whose picture appears above is no longer connected with KANEPACKAGE PHIL., INC. All transactions entered into by her for and in behalf of the company will no longer be honored effective April 15, 2011.

2 CARGO VESSELS FOR IMMEDIATE SALE

	Vessel #1	Vessel #2
LOA	73M	73M
GRT	2224mt	1467mt
DWT	3644mt	1936mt
Engine	Mak 6M452	Mak 6M452M
Bale/Grain	3673M3	3130M3
Cubic Cap	3695M3	3297M3
TEU Capacity	139	75
Year Built	1983	1977
Selling price	Php 63M	Php 27M

Please contact Rex R. Tiuseco at 0917.771.1799 for details and other queries

boi BOARD OF INVESTMENTS dtti

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that CANTE PINOY MANDAUE, INC. is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as Supporting Producer of Modular Housing Components of a Non-Pioneer status under an annual capacity of 10,000pc plywood panel, with product life located at 1600 Sitio Sandayong, Subangdaku, Mandaue City.

Any person with valid objections on the above mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication/posting.

(Sgd.) ROSALINDA S. LAQUINDANUM
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

JUNE 29, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. III-A
(Pampanga Bay, El Dorado Parkway, Carmelray Industrial Park 1, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga)
Telefax/Trunk: (045) 599-5460
June 28, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Citizenship or Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	SD JUNO APPAREL, INC. #100 Langkaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite	Ms. Kwang Soo Jung/ Korean	Supervisor
2.	Pinoy MARKET PHILS. INC. #100, Langkaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite	Ms. Soo Young Chung/ Korean	Production and Design Manager
3.	SDI MARKETING PHILS. & SERVICES (PHILS.) INC. #100 SD. Korea, Malaysia	Mr. Mukesh Kumar/ Japanese	Factory Manager
4.	DELANCE APPAREL & FASHION MANUFACTURING CORP. CEZ Rosario, Cavite	Ms. Yoon Soo/ Chinese	Technical Assistant/ Interpreter
5.	PAG APPAREL CO., LTD. Lot 1, Brgy. Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	Mr. Hiroki Takeshima/ Japanese	Trainer
6.	SERVICES ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. #100 St. Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Yasuo Miyagi/ Japanese	Assistant Manager
7.	JAPLAS INJECTION MOULDING CORPORATION #100 St. Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Hiroyuki Ikuno/ Japanese	Production Engineer

If you have any information/objection to the application/s mentioned please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ SR. OSSA III
Regional Director

To avoid or free yourself from interest, commission, and management problems and losses, call the Philippine Stock Exchange Trading Floor now (Ortigas Office) at 6318000 ext. 3101 or 3102 or www.pse.com.ph

PSE Issue 29 JUNE 2011

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
Gov't Center, Purok-a-ten
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract:

NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (P)	CONTRACT DURATION
REFROCESSING LABOR FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CAPITOL GROUNDS	Provincial Capitol, San Fernando City, La Union	Furnish all necessary materials and labor for the improvement of Capitol Grounds	2,100,000.00	120 days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuances of Bid Documents	June 28, 2011- July 11, 2011, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 P.M., BAC Office, Capitol Bldg., San Fernando City, La Union
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 5, 2011, 10:00 A.M., PHO Conference Room, Capitol Bldg., San Fernando City, La Union
3. Opening of Bids	July 18, 2011, 10:00 a.M., PHO Conference Room, Capitol Bldg., San Fernando City, La Union
4. Bid Evaluation	July 19, 2011
5. Post-Qualification	July 20, 2011
6. Notice of Award	July 21, 2011

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,150.40 to the Office of the Provincial Treasurer's Cashier.

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) DR. GEOFFREY S. TILAN
BAC Chairman

JUNE 29, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Occidental
CITY OF CADIZ
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
www.bacgoodnews.com

INVITATION TO BID

Bid Number	Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Fund
11-06-CDZ-CBM	Construction of Multi-Purpose Building for Cooperatives at Brgy. Tinampay-an (Bid 2nd) Brgy. Cadiz	P1,000,000.00	Special Fund

Bidding is open to: Bidders may be Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens pursuant to RA 5183.

Bidding Documents may be purchased from the Office of the Provincial Treasurer upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

The complete schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

ACTIVITY	DATE
Advertisement/Posting of Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid	June 29, 2011
Issuance of Bid Documents	June 29, 2011
Pre-Bid conference	June 6, 2011 (10:00 a.m.)
Deadline for Submission & Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Pre-Qualification Bids/Pre-Bid Conference	June 6, 2011 (10:00 a.m.)
Notification to Pre-Qualified Bidders and Opening of Financial Bids	June 10, 2011 (10:00 a.m.)
Post-Qualification, Evaluation & Recommendation for Award	June 10, 2011 (10:00 a.m.)
Posting of Awarding of Bids (BAC Office Bulletin)	June 16, 2011 (10:00 a.m.)

The Provincial Government of Negros Occidental and the Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to the contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Bidders may refer to the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat for more information.

Sgd. ATTY. BEN-HARRIS ARMENTA BENAVIDEZ
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

JUNE 29, 2011

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"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me." Psalm 116:7

Our Beloved Papa

ANECITO 'CITO' ELEAZAR DESAMITO

passed his Course on 29 June 2011 at the age of 67 and was peacefully rest in His infinite warmth and embrace.

He was a loving and devoted husband to wife Ester, a generous and caring father to his children Annette and David, and a doting grandfather to all his nephews, nieces and grandchildren who all lovingly call him "Papa Cito".

His family, friends, colleagues and fellow workers in Christ celebrate a life lived with boundless wit, honesty, and generosity.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 6, Landa Memorial Chapels and Crematorium, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Forest Gardens Memorial Park in Quezon City on Saturday, 2 July 2011 after the 1 p.m. Mass.

Inquirer Obituaries

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him." - I Corinthian 2:9

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"My soul be at rest in God alone from whom comes my hope." - Psalm 62:6

Atty. Jose Lozada Villacin

peacefully joined his Creator last June 25, 2011 at the age of 68.

His loving wife Gregoria Villacin;

children Minerva Villacin, Armando & Florence Villacin, Raphael & Chet del Rosario, Joy Villacin, Javy & Delza Villacin;

grandchildren Vice Mayor Ronnie & Joanne Dadivas, Chad & Leah del Rosario, Cheryl Anne del Rosario, Mikhail & Sigrid Villacin, Armando "Arvi" & Lance Villacin, Jaydel & Jasper Villacin;

and his six great-grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at the Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapel, Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City.

Interment is on Saturday, July 2, 2011, Cebu Memorial Park after the 1:00 pm mass at the Imperial Chapel, Cosmopolitan.

BUSINESS

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Asean Community expected to be in place ahead of time

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTORS OPERATING in Southeast Asia can expect a boost to their businesses as work towards the establishment of an Asean Community appears to have progressed well ahead of time.

The region hopes to complete the integration even before the target year of 2015.

UBS Securities said in a research note that the expected boom would benefit mostly those engaging in the financial institutions of the five original members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including the Philippines.

"Financial leaders stand to benefit from ongoing Asean integration through three broad channels, in our view," UBS economists Edward Teather wrote.

Teather said the first is the benefit to Asean economies of a single economic community, second, the potential increase in infrastructure within Asean members and across borders.

"Finally, we expect the potential economies of scale and reduced investment barriers (combined with healthy balance sheets in the Asean-5) to support cross-border mergers and acquisitions," he said.

Asean-5 refers to the five original members: The Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

"[T]he integration implied by the Asean community may open investment opportunities in several areas," Teather said.

A single-economic community will create a single economic bloc with improved free movement in goods, services, investment and skilled labor, he said.

"An increased regional integration spurs up the domestic economy in the world, income growth should be supported," Teather added.

Seawater eyed to help run coal facility

By Jerry B. Penna

EXPERTS AT the Aboitiz Power Corp. are seriously considering the use of seawater to run operations of the proposed 300-megawatt coal-fired power plant in southern Davao to help minimize the impact of its facility on surrounding communities.

The measure will ensure that power plant operations will not affect the fresh water resources of the communities in the area, APC explained in a statement.

According to APC vice president Sunny Hinson the company's technical experts are now studying the plan to use seawater so that the coal facility will not have an impact on fresh water resources in the vicinity. The experts are now considering salt binding tests in the coal site—a 52-hectare property in Binugao, Toril, Davao City and Santa Cruz, Sta. Cruz town.

An option being considered is the conversion of a desalination facility that will remove the salt contents and impurities in the water drawn from the Davao Gulf. The result will be pure freshwater that can be used to run the power plant.

"This will cost us a little bit more, but we are willing to do it. We do not want to disturb our neighbors and their use of the water in the area," Hinson said.

APC's proposed 280-MW coal-fired facility is expected to help solve the power supply woes of Mindanao, which has been sourcing bulk of its power requirements from hydro resources. This makes Mindanao highly vulnerable to various weather phenomena like prolonged drought.

"Hydropower plants are [run on longer] since Mindanao [gets] rainy during long droughts. Studies project that if we don't build a new power plant now, Mindanao could experience a power deficit of as high as 486 MW by 2014," said APC's Bobby Ong said.

MOTORING

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Editor Jung R. Reyes

Consumer trends for 2011 and beyond

SKID MARKS
Ricardo Sarmiento

SO AFTER coming off a high, the Philippine car market has pretty much defined the direction of where all its new cars will be headed to. We're talking vehicle types, style trends, power plant preferences and even enthusiast's platforms for tuning and modifying.

First are the vehicle types. Dear "Dindo," people have started looking into ladder-frame framed SUVs, pick-ups and compact cross-over SUV for their added ride height, ground clearance and flood wading abilities. Forget off-roading, people just really want to be able to drive normally even through the most challenging of floods and not hide riddled traffic by driving a low-slung car. Last year's best selling vehicle, the Toyota Vios at 15,301 units was closely followed by the Mitsubishi Montero Sport with sales of 12,247 units. Considering that the Vios enjoys fleet sales for taxis and company cars, it's amazing how an SUV that easily costs more than double nearly trailed the best selling sedan in the market and number one selling private vehicle.

Now comes the new generation of DIDs and VGT equipped diesel engines, inexplicably, it is the Koreans and Germans (particularly Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz) making huge leaps forward in terms of power, efficiency and environmental friendliness. Hyundai's iX35 duo of the Santa Fe and Tucson have been storming the new car sales market for the past few years, and it is only now that the major Japanese nameplates such as Mitsubishi and Nissan who have made huge strides forward in bringing CRDI enhanced turbocharged diesel torque to the masses, are unfortunately, according to Arthur Reyes of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, can't flood Pasig because as clean and as high quality as their diesels in Europe, any diesel powered cars will never truly made Euro II or better emissions standards. The engine technology is here, but the fuel isn't quite there yet. Lawyer Adony Arcilla, CEO of Continent Car Company, expects Chevrolet Cruze sales to pick up more as the year thanks to the introduction of the diesel engined Cruze variant, aiming squarely at the old Ford Focus TDCi hatchback and sedan, both vehicles long in the tooth and their replacements having been already unveiled in Europe.

For first time car buyers, the market has never looked better. We've got stalwarts from Honda, Toyota, Hyundai, KIA, Ford and Mazda, with entrants surging from a low of sub 10 units to just under 800K for well-equipped variants. And top models packing past the 600K mark. Worth it? You bet. Both the Honda Jazz and the Ford Fiesta are the most exciting, versatile and highly desirable cars you can ever buy at any price range, and are loaded with all the safety features you would never have expected available in a car in its segment and price range.

The high-end market is also booming as well, despite representing no more than a maximum of 8 percent of the overall market by the best estimates. First 2PEPS, the Japanese car makers such as Lexus, Infiniti, Mitsubishi, Nissan UMC and Subaru have enjoyed renewed vigor in the market. Hot The Lexus IS250 has been selling briskly according to Lexus' site, 1,081 Peroidots since 2PEPs was introduced and has been the brand's best selling model, followed by the Lexus RX 350's (however, GSIS Chair Greg Fu also recently reported that GSIS, purchased Mercedes-Benz enjoyed a further year in 2010 with sales of three Mercedes-Benz C and E-Class models selling best thanks to aggressive discounting and marketing promos.

Best year in sales

By the end of 2010, Mercedes-Benz had sold 596 units, enjoying their best year in sales for a while as well as growth, thanks to new products. AMG Veiner Mercedes-Benz have also sold very well in recent months, and the new GLE AMG Coupe, a sportscar that sells between P7.5 million to exhaust over P10 million (according to options) has sold over 18 units since its introduction locally according to marketing and PR executive Grace Enriquez of GMD Motors. Neighbors in Stuttgart as well as in Milan, Porsche Philippines Executive Director Robert Guyton III mentioned that they have sold well over 600 Porsche Cayenne SUVs since its introduction from the 3rd generation and continue to sell well. The introduction of the diesel Cayenne SUV should further boost sales. So far the 4-door sportscar that is the Panamera, a car people have called challenging at best to look at, has sold well over 100 units already, the vast majority being the Diesel Twin Turbo V8 versions. A more powerful and more exclusive Panamera Turbo Turbo S is slated to be released in the next few months and should also help boost sales further. And also enjoyed a banner year with 210 cars sold, a growth of 50 percent from the previous year but could have sold more if they received more allocations of units according to PGA Cars Audi Bluemann Philippines Inc. Director for corporate affairs Arnulfo del Rosario. However, the Alvarez led Asian Carmakers Corporation still leads the total vehicle sales with BMW's selling 661 units in 2010, thanks to a full-model line up of cars and SUVs.

High-end owners shouldn't come at a very high cost as well as The Hyundai Genesis coupe has sold very well since its introduction and the rally-replica Subaru Impreza STI sedan has sold just under 100 units since its introduction in September 2010 up until the first week of June according to Glorietta Motorcosts, marketing executive at Motor Image Filipinas, distributors for Subaru in the country. That doesn't include the hundreds of STI hatchbacks they've sold over the years, as well as previous generation STI sedans since Motor Image's opening a few years back. Sally explains rule the enthusiast's list for affordable performance cars.

New brands coming

New brands are also coming in the mid- low months are Proton from Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Berhad (which apparently might change soon enough as rumors have it that Renault executive sedan may dominated by the Canty Accord and Teana. Everyone is either going up market to begin, more luxurious cars from big-name marquee brands, or to SUVs. Some are going to smaller, compact models and hatchbacks because they are cheaper, offer more versatility, are more fuel efficient, or people are just buying more cars to do more spo-

CONSUMER TRENDS | B3

The new Strada now packs a V6/T engine so you run at maximum efficiency anytime, anywhere. Imagine easy, city driving with the Strada GLX V 4x2. With the new Automatic Transmission that makes the drive from work more enjoyable, without feeling weighed down by traffic. Weekend road trip? Take the Strada GLS Sport V 4x4 with you. It gives optimized turbine speed so you're ready for any road condition, even rough roads. No matter where you go, there's power at your disposal with Mitsubishi Strada GLX V 4x2 and GLS Sport V 4x4.

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
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Putting the Elan in the Elantra

Hyundai redefines 'Modern Premium' in its new lineup of cars

BACKED BY RANKS OF 'Avantes,' the Elantra is considered as Hyundai's biggest seller at the moment.

Text and photos By Alvin Uy

LAST JANUARY at the 2011 Detroit Motor Show, Hyundai revealed its new brand direction by defining its latest concept as "Modern Premium" with the introduction of its new 5-door hatchback coupe and Curb Concept vehicle. This is line with what Hyundai Vice Chairman Chung Mong-koo said was Hyundai's drive to "satisfy new values by breaking free possibilities with new thinking about our customers and our cars." Hyundai Motor Company is considered one of the world's fastest-growing automotive companies and its new brand statement "New Thinking, New Possibilities" certainly offers a glimpse of the automaker's vision of the way their new cars will look and perform.

Hyundai recently invited some 70 members of the international media for a test drive of the all-new Elantra along the picturesque outskirts of Seoul. The variety roads along the Han River provided a spectacular backdrop and excellent course to test Hyundai's newest compact sedan.

The Elantra is another testament of Hyundai's "Fluidic Sculpture" design concept, which is also evident in its cabin reflecting like the all-new Sonata, Genesis and Azera's models. Its body creases highlight sculptured forms and surfaces as it shaped by the wind that offers a distinctive and modern look. Dubbed as the "Wind Craft", the 2011 Elantra is a product that encompasses Hyundai's new brand concept, "Modern Premium," which aims to provide customers with an emotional value and driving experience in line with the Hyundai's new brand direction that aims to show a new spirit of change reflecting the brand's dramatic growth in all areas of business.

Chung Eui-sun adds: "Today, customers do not believe that expensive cars with unnecessary technology are premium. Instead, they want their core needs fulfilled at an accessible price and within cars that exceeds their expectations; a car that reflects their values and that matches in which they live. Hyundai is not just a company that makes cars. Hyundai is a company that creates new possibilities. Our goal is not to become the biggest car company. Our goal is to become the most loved car company and a trusted lifetime partner of our owners."

This advocacy runs against the grain of traditional thinking that the word "premium" is associated with a higher price, dynamic cars or "Modern Premium" delivers a high-end, high-quality vision proposition at a surprisingly attainable price.

This seemingly new age thinking offers a refreshingly different attitude that is centered on seasoned and market-sensitive but carries an age-old formula of giving value-for-money products that drives Korean cars have come of age and it considered a global automotive powerhouse already.

Its highly successful 2011 Sonata mid-size family sedan stands up the EU market while the larger Genesis sedan won the prestigious North American Car of The Year award in 2009, redefining luxury with an attainable price hosting other cars in the segment.

US research company J.D. Power recently surveyed Hyundai as having an average 12 days "stay on the lot" shelf life in dealerships in the North American market, despite a downturn in the auto industry.

Its guaranteed resale in value program and quality initiative programs that started a year 2000 seems to be paying off.

$45 million gamble

What is also paying off is Hyundai's 330-Excellent wind tunnel facility, said to be the biggest in Korea and only one out of four of its kind in Asia. This state-of-the-art wind tunnel facility is among the newest testing facilities in Hyundai's R&D center in Namyang, established in 2000, all its cars are sculpted using the facility not only to dive against the wind, but to improve on cabin acoustics using its sensitive audio equipment.

Touring the Elantra proved that its tranquil interior acoustics is a testament to years of R&D paying off.

There we attended the Elantra's test drive were also taken around the Namyang facility together with other visiting area such as the high-speed test track where various road surfaces replicating the toughest road conditions in the real world.

Exciting times ahead

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Co. has grown into the Hyundai Motor Group which is now ranked as the world's fourth largest automaker and includes more than two dozen auto-related subsidiaries and affiliates.

With six manufacturing plants outside South Korea, it sold approximately 3.6 million vehicles globally in 2010 and expects to sell over 4 million this year. Hyundai vehicles are sold in 186 countries through some 5,200 dealerships and showrooms.

"These are exciting times for Hyundai," exclaimed Lee Yong Hun, EVP and head of Overseas Sales for Hyundai in a cocktail reception held on the same week. Lee also recently touched the Philippine media contingent, revealing that its Philippine partner, Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari), the country's distributor for Hyundai is an excellent partner. Hari recently won the prestigious "Global Distributor of the Year" 2010 at the Hyundai Motor Company global convention in Busan, Canada. (See separate story on page F).

Lee further added that Hyundai is working on several other initiatives towards promoting its "Modern Premium" advocacy, with recent co-branding campaigns similar to its tie-up with international luxury brand Prada and its Genesis line. Plus, its was commissioned to design a limited edition of Genesis sedans to be offered in some specific markets.

The 2011 Elantra is a fifth-generation model that started its first generation model in 1990. The current model represents a major shift in which its market orientation as being more modern and sporty, compared to its forth-generation predecessor as being conventional and traditional, explains Jong Hoon Woo, Hyundai's Product Manager for Overseas in charge of the Elantra.

Since 1990, over 750,000 units has been produced and sold. Badged locally in Korea as the "Avante," it is considered as Hyundai's biggest seller at the moment.

A FLEET of Elantra cars readied for an international media road trip in Seoul, Korea.

Letter to the Editor

Mr. Jong Antonio
Motoring Editor
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Dear Mr. Antonio:

First and foremost, I would like to thank you and Mr. Rodolfo Isarog for bringing out the issues on the safety of motorcycles running here in the Philippines as this is always good for motor racing. By presenting the sides of both the drag racers and organizers, you have both been fair to non-riders and motorsports enthusiasts.

I am writing to you in the hope that I may be able to shed light on some of the issues raised by Mr. Santos in his Shot Marks column entitled "Motorsports as the Crossroads," which was published last June 22 in the motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

I agree with what he wrote in his column when he said, "Norrangas Racing Circuit and Clark International Speedway are the only true proper racetracks, even it's a far cry from race tracks of Top Automotive at Speedway, Sepang Circuit and Shanghai International Circuit," why this is one of the reasons why I am constantly working very hard to raise the level of both racetracks to international standards.

I would likewise present some points to clarify the issues brought up by the drag racers during the 4th round of National Drag Racing Championships.

1. The equipment must be supplied exclusively by Rifton Motors. It is not true that all safety equipment used by the competitors must be exclusively supplied by Rifton Motors, as this company deals with the governor business. As a matter of fact, it is Kart Pluss Manufacturing that keeps the inventory/stocks of safety equipment and all race drivers are welcome to buy from this company if they find its products affordable. However, they are not required to do so if they wish to source out in the center. I must state for the record that race drivers competing in the series can freely source their safety equipment from anywhere in the Philippines or abroad as long as the specified safety equipment requirements are met as prescribed by FIA and SNELL in their homologation appendices, which are clearly adhere to in our series. Safety equipment purchased from companies other than Kart Pluss that meet the aforementioned specifications are accepted by the organizers and Asia Automobile Association (Philippines), sanctioning body of Philippine motorsports.

If you or any of your representative will be here during the next round of the Drag Race, I would like to extend you an invitation to witness for yourself that the drivers have different brands of safety equipment.

2. Mikli One Make Tire. For the 2011 Philippine National Drag Racing Championships, the use of Mikli Tires were originated to the Rules and Regulations that was released on JUNE PROCLAIM, at the beginning of the season in January. The organizer has, in fact, negotiated with Mikli tires to provide subsidized pricing for drag tires. This has resulted in a 30 per cent reduction/discount in comparison to the prevailing price to the market. This can also be confirmed by checking with the drag racers who purchased the said tires.

By using a "Tire Make Tire" for the series, the organizer is leveling the playing field for all the Drag Racers. The logic behind this is that those who want to use faster—and more expensive—tires cannot do so even if they are allowed, thus, putting the less affluent competitors on an even footing with their moneyed rivals. With a level playing field, we can then discover new talents from this particular motorsports discipline, from in the highest form of motorsports which is their F1, they too have a "One Make Tire" Policy to equalize and keep the costs down.

I would also like to point out that in the PRO and SUPER PRO Class, there are only 10 to 12 entrants for the whole racing season. These 10 to 12 competitors will use their drag tires for an average of two to three years before they are replaced. Finally, it is not even a worthwhile business for us to sell 20 pairs of tires every two years. Having said that, we are still undertaking the effort in the pursuit of our vision of creating a bigger drag racing community with an affordable cost of racing without sacrificing the quality of competition among racers. In say that the organizer is driven by greed and profit is far from the truth.

It is my hope that these basic facts clarifications will meet space in your section so that your readers will fully appreciate the issues that were raised and, more importantly, the truth.

Thank you and more power to you.

Johnny Tan

SMILES and relentless goal-setting fuel pride for Batch 1 graduates of Isuzu-Tesda Auto Mechanic Training Center in Tacloban, Leyte.

Isuzu-Tesda graduates second batch of auto mechanic scholars

ISUZU EDSA plans 20 more scholars a new issue over a horse life.

The Isuzu-Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) Auto Mechanic Training Center has graduated its second batch of scholars, producing qualified but underpriced employees in the country.

The training center in Tacloban, Leyte, is a project of Isuzu Motors Limited of Japan (IMLJ), Tesda and Isuzu Philippines.

The 33 male and 14 female students from this batch will have the opportunity to work at Isuzu Philippines Corporation (IPC), Isuzu Auto Parts Manufacturing Corp. (IAMC), various Isuzu dealerships, and other local service shops.

IPC is also endowing the graduates to officiate, engineers and even companies it directly do business with for them to hire the young auto technicians. One of the goals of the training center is to uplift the quality of automotive education in the Philippines for the benefit of the local car industry in general. In fact, graduates belonging to the second batch will also land jobs at several bus companies, including Don Mariano, Jeff Bus Transport and G-Liner.

Graduates of the Tesda Auto Mechanic Training Center earn the highest certification (known as NC-II) in the field of automotive service after a two-year course. They also get an NC-I certification in driving by the time they graduate. Besides the technical skills, the students are trained in the other aspects of the car business, like teamwork, customer relations and planning.

"It has only been two and a half years since the inauguration of the Isuzu-Tesda Auto Mechanic Training Center and we are having already the second commencement exercises," said Isuzu Motors Limited Chairman Yoshinori Ida during the graduation ceremony held recently. "The first batch graduates have earned a good reputation at their workplace because of their skills and knowledge. You are expected to do as well. Your families and we at Isuzu are full of expectancies for you."

The Leyte-based training center successfully graduated its first batch of scholars in November last year, with 25 scholars subsequently landing jobs at IPC, IAMC, and Isuzu dealers.

"Words are not enough to express our gratitude and thanks for the support that they have given us," said Batch 2 graduate Jenny Lou Arcino during the commencement exercises. "To my fellow graduates, never give up on what you want to do in life. It's our time to excel. Let us show the world the best that we can be."

With the graduation of Batch 2, the auto mechanic training center also welcomes to its fold the sixth batch of scholars, composed of 16 students.

Growth and a global award

ON THE ROAD

Jude Sevilla-Mendoza

THE GLOBAL growth of Hyundai Motor Co. (HMC) has been phenomenal, with net profit soaring 67 percent in January-March (the year to US$1.7 billion after a 48 percent fourth-quarter profit jump in 2010. Together with 36 percent-owned Kia Motors Corp., HMC is the world's fifth biggest car manufacturer by sales and aims to sell 5.8 million vehicles worldwide this year, up from 5.6 million sold in 2010 in 185 countries. HMC's net profit this quarter (April-June) is expected to rise as demand for its vehicles likely increased due to the Japanese supply disruptions caused by the March 11 quake. To meet the growing demand and gain more market share, HMC is rolling out more vehicles through overtime work at its three plants in South Korea and an overseas plants, including those in the United States, China and India.

In the Philippines, where Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (Hari) began business operations in 2001, annual growth averaged 48 percent in the last 10 years. As a result, Hari won the Hyundai Asia Pacific Distributor of the Year Award three times (2005, 2006 and 2008) and Fe Perez Agudo, who began as Hari general manager at the start, was promoted to chief executive and president from executive vice president in 2009. Last year, Hari posted an amazing 82 percent growth, in the process dislodging Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. as the country's No. 2 automaker brand.

Hari's performance did not go unnoticed at HMC's headquarters. Last week, at HMC's global distributors convention in Banff, Canada, attended by 165 distributors from all over the world, Agudo received on Hari's behalf the Global Distributor of the Year award, HMC's highest distinction.

Category. Hari won in the 10,000 to 20,000-unit market sales category while Mongkolsar Motors of Saudi Arabia won in the 30,000 or more market sales category and Hyundai Sime Darby Sdn. Bhd. of Malaysia won in the 10,000 or less market sales category. Back in Manila, when asked if Hari got the award because of its sales record, Agudo replied that it was a recognition of Hari's performance not only in sales, but also in its overall business operations as a distributor.

"More than ever, the recognition affirmed the world-class excellence that characterizes Filipino entrepreneurial and management capability which has been transforming Our performance and reputation of many Filipino-run global and domestic enterprises into sustainable success," Agudo said. She credits Hari's astonishing annual growth to "strong Filipino management artistry and genuine values of enterprise and resiliency."

Agudo's achievement at Hari shows that an MBA degree from a prestigious university here or abroad is not necessary to succeed in business. MBA graduates with a bachelor of science degree in Commerce, major in Accounting at St. Scholastica's College of Manila under a full scholarship program, she worked for 26 plus years in the real estate industry, sharpening her managerial, marketing and coaching skills. When the opportunity came in 2001 to earn up the affiliated distributorship of HMC in the Philippines, she did not hesitate although, as she told me once, "No one wanted to touch Hyundai at that time."

Difficult. "Beginnings are always difficult," Agudo admits, which is an understatement since Hari had to fight a tough uphill battle to overcome the common perception of Hyundai as a cheap, poor quality, unreliable brand from Korea with low resale value while Japanese brands were considered vastly superior. But when HMC improved its quality and technology to extensively that it topped Toyota in the Initial Quality Survey of J.D. Power and Associates at one time and Hyundai vehicles began earning the Recommended rating of Consumer Reports Magazine in the United States, the breakthrough was made.

Hyundai's incredible growth was affirmed in March last year when it became the third top-selling automotive brand in the Philippines after Toyota and Mitsubishi, the first non-Japanese marque to gain that distinction. Agudo attributes Hari's success to "divine guidance and a strong pioneering dealer network and Hyundai team who shared the same resolve and determination."

Inspired by the Global Distributor of the Year award, Agudo revealed that Hari's ultimate mission is working towards delivering the Dealer Experience Pinnacle (DEP) guidelines and quotes HMC boss (CEO) to DEP 2 standards. Hari plans to increase the number of dealerships nationwide from 36 to 45 by year-end, adding two in Metro Manila at North Edsa and Central Edsa plus nine new ones in Luzon and the Visayas. "It is important that we remain faithful to our goal to keep our customers happier," she says. "We have to take our strengths to new orbits or level where our competitive advantage and brand equity are nurtured and sustained by new ways of thinking and doing which better support what our customers want."

Modest. Already, Hari is setting the groundwork to re-align with HMC's vision to become the third top-ranking brand globally and enjoy a sales target of 5 million units by 2015. "This outside feeling ourselves up even more, especially what we give to our customers—our products, services and aggressive marketing campaigns— that would endear them more to the Hyundai brand," Agudo avers. " We are also shifting our current brand image and customer perception from good value, quality and stylish to Modern Premiumband."

Through all these, the words of HMC vice-chair Chung Eui-sun echo in her mind: "These are exciting times for Hyundai. We have experienced outstanding growth and the future looks terrific. But as we stop at the conviction, we must remain humble and continue to press forward."

FE Perez Agudo (right), president and CEO of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (Hari), with Hyundai Motor Company vice chair Chung Eui-sun at the ceremony where the Hari was the prestigious Global Distributor of the Year. Agudo also wore Inez in national costume for her regular visits to Nora Palmes.

THE PRESTIGIOUS Global Distributor of the Year trophy

Turn your car into a Star.
Mercedes-Benz Trade-Up Weekend
July 1-3, 2011
S-Class
Trade in any car for a brand new S-Class or choose among one of the Mercedes-Benz models. The S-Class, with its battery of innovations in automotive performance, luxury and safety, continues to define and redefine what a car can be.
Mercedes-Benz Trade-Up Weekend Privileges
• Fight appraisal on your trade-in car
• Own a brand new S-Class at 30% down payment, 36 months @ 6 percent*
• Free 1 year comprehensive insurance
• Free iPad 2 for every Mercedes-Benz purchased during the weekend
• Special trade-in packages for all other Mercedes-Benz models
Test drive your dream car today. Visit the showroom, open until 10 PM.
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A ride that goes where few dare

Text and photos by Charles E. Bulut

BEFORE THE rainy season set in a couple of weeks ago, I decided to grab the chance to go out of town for a short and much needed vacation.

I had to make a quick getaway plan.

After all, an all-wheel drive variant like the Montero Sport sat idle in my garage. But to where can I bring this big-selling SUV of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines?

The province of Bicol became an interesting choice. This mountainous region boasts of the most majestic rice terraces in the world. Among them, Batad and its amphitheater-styled terraces, stands strongest.

But to get there, you need to reach Banaue first, a drive that takes eight to 10 hours (that is, if you're coming from Metro Manila).

From Banaue, Batad is just 16 kilometers away.

Rugged

However, the terrain between Banaue and Batad is rugged and may be difficult to navigate even if there's no inclement weather.

I can't believe I said worse weather, especially if it's been raining for days! It could be raining in Batad even even if its sunshiney hot in Metro Manila as was the case when I got there).

The windy road snaking between the mountains is also somewhat treacherous. It's enough to necessitate the rental of an oversized jeep (the official mode of transport in the area).

This means if you will be driving your own vehicle, watch out for oncoming traffic especially around blind curves as well as negotiating very steep inclines.

Up to the challenge

The best way to enjoy this chief location is to make sure your ride is up to the challenge. If you intend to explore places like Batad, make sure your ride has ample ground clearance as well as an economical diesel engine that delivers lots of torque.

The Montero Sport GLS 4x4 is a perfect choice for this particular trip.

A market favorite, The Montero Sport played a pivotal role in propelling MMPC to the number one position last month, when the company recorded selling 3,117 units and in the process achieving 18.8 percent share of the local automotive market. MMPC's May 2011 sales increase is a double-digit growth of 35.3 percent compared to the same month last year, while year to date figures registered an increase of 9.1 percent with 14,062 units sold compared to 12,889 units sold same period last year).

Powered by a 134-horsepower, 2.5-liter diesel engine, the Montero Sport 4x4 performed flawlessly, without a single hiccup on the highway that passed Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija and the town Bagabag in Nueva Vizcaya.

But the true test really came when I finally reached Banaue. Barely a kilometer after leaving the town proper, the road turned narrow and rugged. Big rocks and loose soil filled the path. Portions of several days old landslides. Me and my passengers were still lucky as we were informed days some land-

WITH ITS ruggedness, the Montero Sport 4x4's chief attribute has a potent package that is ready to face any type of road challenges.

slides are so bad they completely cut off the road isolating the towns of Batad and beyond for several days or weeks.

7th kilometer mark

From Banaue, a modern driver has to search out if the odometer reading is about to reach the 7th kilometer mark. A posertion lies around this area where, in one most fateful, go-up toward the "saddle" (so go straight would lead travelers to the main western town of Bontoyan, 37 kilome-ters away.

THOSE who want to be rewarded with stunning vistas of amazing human engineering and breathtaking mountainscape have to be ready to break a sweat and to venture down the road less traveled.

The "saddle" is the last place where visitors foregoing their sense vehicle could safely park (there's a fee though), for the locals who will watch it (cost). This is the starting point of the hour-long or so walk to Batad town proper.

It was here at the junction, that this writer got an old lady who politely insisted that I just leave the vehicle on the side of the road and start walking (just what riders needed: unwanted advice from their private vehicles occasionally do). In her estimation the Montero Sport is "too beautiful" to be able to make the climb, not like the battle-scarred rented jeeps that periodically transport tourists visiting Batad.

But after driving 30 hours, I was not about to walk 9 kilometers with a 15 kilo bag on my back. Besides, it would be unwise to just leave the vehicle at the roadside and in such a lonesome place.

Rugged and steep

The park going is the "saddle" is very rugged as well as steep so only the seasoned joyriders are trained enough to climb.

Entering the old lady that my ride is an all-wheel drive one. I bid her goodbye and shifted the Super Select to 4H (Hindi 4WD high range that improves traction) and started the grueling climb.

As the Montero Sport calmly and confidently climbed the steep mountain side, I kept in mind what sort of maintenance should I get into today. Must toss much to one side and rub out-going (the beautiful side of the road, that is, over too much to the other and I end up rolling down the deep ravine.

The Montero Sport a indeed sport-driver inspiring. Its 2.5-liter ground that more geared reliable while ingenuity deep for tombs, rocky outcrop and eroded trails. Considering this particular Montero Sport features the Super Select 4WD—the same system found in Mitsubishi's full size SUV the Pajero—no terrain was too tough for this SUV.

They say the best things in life are the ones that much you work up a good sweat. There's that unmatched sense of fulfillment and pride that comes through hard work.

It was a joyous moment as our group finally reached the vicinity of Batad. Leaving the Montero Sport in the safety of the saddle's parking area, it was our capture to walk over big.

While Batad is challenging place to reach, its secrets are well worth the journey. One only has to remember to be prepared (especially in what sort of attire is being).

I have to agree with MMPC president and CEO Hikaru Ishihara who is optimistic in achieving 2011 sales target of 38,000 units and capturing a 20 percent market share (despite year to date decrease of 11 percent in the auto industry sales). With the Montero Sport 4x4 alone, they have a capable vehicle at the ready.

Consumer trends for 2011

From page B1-1

cific tasks: a small car for commuting everyday to school and work, while a rugged, diesel pick-up or SUV for out of town trips, hauling serious cargo or working in job-sites outside of Metro Manila. It seems that our roads just don't fit typical sedans anymore. Of the brands, Nissan Motors Philippines seems to be leaving massive ground and market share that is a general lack of diesel-powered vehicles, a small car and missed out on improving the Nissan 370 GTR, of which gray-market importers have imported over a hundred units already. It's said because the GTR qualifies diesel-powered sedan cle. Hopefully things change soon for Honda as the aging Civic and CR-V are being supplanted by the Honda 2nd, CR-Z and Accord, which itself is doing ok, but in a declining market.

Gasoline-fed V8 SUV's such as ExpeditionsIt, M.Suburbs and the like have also taken a massive hit. People are flocking more to premium diesel SUV's such as Toyota's LC200 Land Cruiser, Audi's Q7 TDI and the BMW X line of diesel SUV's. The premium SUV's offer greater performance, resale values and driving enjoyment compared to the traditional American SUV's.

Lastly, vans and MPV's are making a comeback. The Toyota Alphard is selling quite well, and the Hyundai Starex line-up sales remain strong as ever.

The market has spoken, SUV's diesels, and high-end marques brands have been making all the right moves and more this year. The Japan tragedy has slowed down imports of GM vehicles from Japan as well as GM vehicles made elsewhere but source their parts to Japan but the 2000 brands are optimistic that things will normalize by the third quarter of this year.

The market looks to grow towards this direction for the next few years at least. So what car will you be buying soon?

Porsche 911 GT3 RSR rules Nürburgring 24-hour race in record fashion

STUTTGART – IT was one of the most exciting and dramatic 24 hour races at the Nürburgring. And it finished with a triumph for Porsche.

In front of 220,000 spectators living the legendary Nordschleife, Porsche works drivers Marc Lieb (Germany), Timo Bernhard (Germany), Romain Dumas (France) as well as Lucas Luhr (Switzerland) won the 39th running of the long distance classic in the Eifel with the Porsche 911 GT3 RSR and relegated their strong opponents from BMW, Mercedes and Audi to finish down the field.

For Porsche and Die Porsche Team Manthey, this marked the 80th victory at the traditional race in the last six years – likewise for Timo Bernhard.

With the Porsche 911 GT3 RSR—the world's most successful GT race car of the past years—the Porsche quartet finished the final on Saturday at 15:25 hours and held on to it to the flag. What followed were 36 hours and 11 minutes at the head of the field, 108 consistently fast and faultless laps under immense pressure on one of the toughest race tracks on earth—this speaks volumes about the reliability of the Porsche 911 GT3 RSR and for the skill of the pilots. The new distance record set with a total of 134 laps and 3,916.980 kilometers underlines the superb effort of the winners and their team.

"We already knew before the start that we could only win if we worked together as a team. Even the drivers through to the mechanics. And this worked very well for the entire time," Timo Bernhard said. The team wanted to concentrate on just one car, a perfect strategy that was rewarded with victory. And as Timo Bernhard crossed the finish line with the Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, the Eifel at last showed its true rainy colours.

The Porsche 911 GT3 R Hybrid also gave an impressive performance, even though its second start at the 24 hour classic did not yield the anticipated top result. Fielded by Porsche Team Manthey with Porsche works drivers Joerg Bergmeister (Germany), Richard Lietz (Austria), Marco Holzer (Germany) and Patrick Long (USA), the innovative race car with its groundbreaking drive concept finished as an impressive fifth place, a breathtaking chase through the field, 17 laps behind the winner.

THE GREEN Porsche 911 GT3 RSR, leading the way.

For more information on the Porsche 911 GT3 RSR and other models, please contact Porsche Center (Philippines) at (32)7030 to 40 or visit its showroom at 30 Edsa Mandaluyong City.

Supplement Head Jong Ancajas

Rock-solid confidence

Real estate stakeholders to tackle industry's hot issues, trends

By Joel T. Miguel

STAKEHOLDERS IN the real estate industry, government officials representing the key shelter agencies, and key personalities from mass media will discuss hot issues and trends concerning the property sector during this year's staging of the Philippine Real Estate Festival with the theme "Real Estate, Tourism and Media: A Tripartite Collaboration for National Progress."

Since this year's theme, which emphasizes the role media in the vital importance of the tourism and media industries in propelling the progress of real estate, Developers have been teaming up with great building designs and orchestrations, innovative practices and methods in order to allow more people to be acquainted with their products and services in the easiest but get access to financial resources favorable to their client's needs. As such, the festival will underscore the contributions of real estate developments, property tourism and media in working together to achieve development on a national scale.

The festival will also showcase our country's best examples of successful real estate developments from high-rise condominiums to medium-rise buildings to low-cost or socialized housing. Tourism development, including resorts and recreational homes, will also be featured. PREF, which will be held on July 20 to 30 at The World Trade Center in Pasay City, offers free admission to the public.

No less than President Benigno Aquino will be present at the event as he'll provide the keynote speech during the opening this Vice President and housing czar Jejomar Binay meanwhile, will discuss the topic "The Present State of Philippine Housing."

Since the role played by mass media in the real estate industry is a one of the key issues at the event, top executives of the country's major traditional mass media companies will also speak on topics vital to both industries. Various media trends and strategies on how to develop one's business and how to effectively communicate key messages to specific and targeted markets will be tackled.

Philippine Daily Inquirer president and CEO Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez will speak on "Maximizing Your Real Estate Space in Print." Chase Sarino-Grosio, president of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. will discuss the topic "Strategies for Effective Communication and Branding (In Impact of TV Promotion." Mike Enriquez, senior vice president for radio operations of GMA Network Inc., meanwhile, will talk about "If Korea Promotions via Radio Advertising."

Noted government leaders particularly from key shelter agencies as well as stakeholders from the private sector will also share their insights on their respective areas of jurisdiction and their roles in industry development. They are also expected to partake in discussions on various business issues, market trends, and other property issues.

Among the topics that will be discussed and its respective speakers are: Land Registration Authority administrator Jesus Eulalio Dan III on "How Can You Check the Authenticity of Your Land Title"; Bureau of Internal Revenue commissioner lawyer Kim S. Jacinto-Henares on "Tax Instruments and Its exemption on Acquiring Real Estate Properties for Development"; Pag-ibig or Home Development Mutual Fund president and CEO Jesse Del Rio Mario B. Berberabe on "Pinoy the Self-Employed Can Avail of Pag-Ibig Housing Loan"; Lindsay John Orr, CEO of Jones Lang La Salle Lasalle, on the topic "The Trajectory of Real Estate Properties"; Peter Wallace, president of the The Wallace Stream, on "Financial and Economic Drivers and Linkages of the Real Estate Industry"; National Economic Development Authority director general Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr. on "Investment Promotion through the Property Sector"; Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory L. Domingo on "Consumer Protection in the Real Estate Industry"; Professional Regulatory Board of Real Estate Service chair Dr. Eduardo G. Gregorio "The Impact of SEGA Law on the Real Estate Industry"; National Commission on Climate Change commissioner Secretary Mary Ann Lucille Sering on "National Climate Change Action Plan"; Management Association of the Philippines president architect Felino "Jun" Palafox Jr. on "Global Trends: Best and Worst Urban Planning, Architecture and Real Estate Developments"; and Makati City Gen. Jose Clemente "Jun" L. Atienza on "The IT-enabled Urban Management."

PREF Events Management president and CEO Rosanna C. Bass, will also present the concept paper "Sustaining Business Buyers" to Presidential Aspirer, Vice President Binay and to heads of various local government leagues. The paper provides for 10-step steps LGUs can embark on unilateral housing for its constituents with the help of various government agencies such as the Pag-Ibig Fund.

A design showcase will also be featured during the three-day festival which will display the talents and skills of students who would be future designers and architects. The showcase, in which invited schools will present their different design ideas for the development of the real estate industry, will serve as a venue to develop young minds and for them to be interested in public-private partnership or promote community building, it will be held in cooperation with the Philippine Institute of Architects.

ARCHITECT Felino "Jun" Palafox Jr.

INQUIRER president and CEO Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez

JONES Lang LaSalle Lasalle COO Lindsay John Orr.

PREF Events Management president and CEO Rosanna C. Bass.

PREF will be topped by the PREF Excellence Awards, which will give recognition to notable projects that have made significant impact on the real estate industry. This is co-hosted by the JC Leaders International. For inquiries, call PREF Events Management at 831-3050 or 864-0224, or e-mail at pref_events@yahoo.com.

It's all about an in-type and distinctive, limited to only 55 lucky homeowners. Located within the low address in Lipa, Batangas – the world-class Mount Malarayat Residential Estates. Still-exceptional mountain views. Landscaped exclusively. And for all-seasons just a few steps away, as the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club, named by Asian Golf Monthly as "The Best Golf Course in the Philippines." Now only an hour away from Makati via the new, improved SLEX and STAR.

ACTIVEGROUP DEVELOPMENT

For property previews, call Dennis Alvarado at +63 (2) 810-9401
www.activegroup.com.ph • www.malarayat.com

TERMITE-PROOF YOUR HOME

Preventing termites from destroying your home involves being prepared before it happens. This includes knowing the signs of termite infestations.

Take some time to inspect your home from termite damage. Some of the common signs of infestation are the visible mud tunnel around the exterior or interior of your home often near the foundation, soft wood in the home, and damaged electrical wires. It is important that you take corrective measures before leaving your home from termite infestation. This is because normally, by the time you notice the signs of infestation. The damage has most likely been done.

To prevent subterranean termites from entering your home, create a barrier using the trusted Solguard solutions soil termiticide. Solguard is a soil termiticide with Cypermethrin as its active ingredient. Solguard when applied to the perimeter of your home creates a lethal barrier against termites preventing them from entering your home.

Every liter of Solguard can be diluted with 15 liters of water. The 15 liters solution can treat 15 square meters that is why Solguard is economical to use. Solguard is also a solution formula making it convenient to use.

Make sure your home is protected from the attack of termites. For further information on termite control, you may call Jardine Distribution, Inc. hotline 02-843-6011 to 15, 0920-913-4167 or email at call@jardinedistribution.com.

Three rich cultures at Asya Enclaves Alabang

By Joel V. Migue

A fifth community of low-rise condominiums is poised to meet the high standards of young metropolitanites. And, in my opinion, this will make it more attractive to seasoned real estate developer Phinma Properties.

Like a lot of city dwellers, young professionals and families know the challenge of finding a good home within Metro Manila. Aside from location, quality and aesthetics, there are the commuting problems. With a number of real estate companies offering towering housing projects with close unit measures and steep prices, the ideal home is mostly beyond reach.

But developers need not build high-rises to accomplish such a feat, as the Phinma Properties aims to prove this yet again. And this time around, its solution comes in the form of a condominium development—a promising project called Asya Enclaves Alabang.

Located at the southernmost end of Muntinlupa, Asya Enclaves Alabang is a 5.1-hectare condominium community and is composed of three townhouses. Each one encloses what will top-hold the company's tradition of East and Eastern-and high-quality-level amenities.

"Again, what sets us apart is that per unit is the price," said Willie J. Uy, president and CEO of Phinma Properties. "It's probably the lowest selling price, starting at P1,000/month, right now in the market. Apart from that, we're known for building fast. This involves 5 more buildings. Our typical record for that is anywhere between six to eight months. Because of this, our homeowners can quickly enjoy the comfort of their new homes without having to wait for such a long time."

But how can Phinma Properties forgo close unit measures and high prices, and then construct 6-to-8 units by for a company which aims to house the young-and the savvy. The company has been known for introducing out of unique design features to complement their other offerings. They've used Mediterranean aesthetics, they've made use of contemporary designs and they have employed the now-the-most philosophy. For this particular project, they turned to the Arts Artistic culture.

"Each of these enclaves will be designed differently," said Uy. "The first phase will have a Japanese theme, the second will be inspired by the Thai culture. The last of the three phases will have designs inspired by Indonesia."

The Japanese-inspired phase, Hiyas Enclave, will employ the minimalist aesthetic most characteristic of modern architecture from the "Land of the Rising Sun." "Within the shadow of its 7-storey frame, Ginza will also have its own greenery and a charming pocket playground providing some of its favorite.

The Thai-inspired Ima Enclave will have the added wealth of the country. Its elaborate motifs will add some style sparingly enough so to noticeable while complementing the other two phases. Meanwhile, the Indonesian-inspired Bali Enclave will have a somewhat tropical feel to the house. Like Ginza, the Ima and Bali Enclaves will also have nearby open greenery and pocket playgrounds. All three enclaves are also surrounded with generous spaces—a remedy to the congestion of the city.

"I believe that the Asian theme is very popular," adds Uy. "It is aesthetically pleasing. As for me, and with the fact that we can create a experience for and grow. That is another step in Phinma Properties' continuous advancement."

Apart from offering three stylish enclaves in one community, Asya Enclaves Alabang will also be housing other amenities. Near the unit facilities, the community will also have a circle of commercial blocks. The unit block will have a function hall and a club house. It also have lobby pool and a mini-pool. Meanwhile, a fitness hall will also be provided for the convenience of residents.

"We do our best to cater our future," said Uy.

Estate Inquirer in Alabang Asia's leading property investors fulfill the business and leisure needs of multinationals. Ayala Land has recently commenced construction of the area, the community also has close proximity to the host big names of Makati and the socio-cultural affairs of Bonifacio. Taguig City. It is also a few minutes away from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"We are very lucky to have that location," Uy said. "It offers a nice neighborhood for our residents."

Since 1957, Phinma Properties has been known for the construction of several popular developments in the Philippines such as the Phinma Isle Club Town Homes and the Hiyas Villas. The company now becomes one of the leaders in low-cost, mid-rise building with a philosophy summed up in one slogan. "Life living made easy." And with the newly opened Asya Enclaves Alabang, it will continue its response that dictum, effectively making high-standard living within reach. To know more information, visit www.phinmaproperties.com or call 815-6888 or 891?-320-6800.

6th Creba meet highlights PPP for nat'l tourism

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders' Associations will hold its 6th monthly business meeting on June 30 at the Bistro Filipino in Quezon City. Undersecretary for Tourism Planning and Promotion as guest of honor and speaker. He'll speak on "Private Public Partnership in the Mirrored Tourism Development Plan."

On the same occasion, Creba will hold the launching of its 2011 Annual National Convention in partnership with the DOT dubbed as the "Tourism and Real Estate Congress" to be held from June 8 to 9 at the Manila Hotel in Manila, Mezzanine Complex, Pasay City. This year's convention theme is "Tourism Today, Real Estate Investors Tomorrow".

Charlie A. T. Gonzalez, Creba national president, said that the property industry aims to scale up its assistance to the national tourism development efforts. With its network of industry and professional associations and many of the top developers in the country, Creba is expected to help maximize the dollar-earning advantages of Philippine tourism. Besides being a public servant, Gozon is a veteran player, event planning advisory marketing consultant, and educator. Prior to his appointment as undersecretary in January 2011, Gozon served as the executive director of the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp. Earlier in his career, he worked with the then Ministry of Economic as tourism officer stationed at the post. Gozon is also a member of the Philippine Commission on Women, where he served a three-year stint as college dean. He is also involved in the boards of a number of other tourism, convention and travel associations and institutions, both public and private, among them the Intramuros Administration, Philippine International Convention Center, Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines, Philippine Tourism Authority and the Asia Travel Association. He holds a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from the UP School of Urban and Regional Planning, with special training from the Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management from Salzburg, Australia.

According to Pardo R. Salmon, new-elect dean of the convention and past national president of Creba, the Creba convention will include site visits to some of the country's leading new tourism destinations and fellowship programs designed to create a fun-filled convention experience that everyone will enjoy. This major annual event will gather many of the best-known real estate and tourism players in the Philippines, she said.

Creba can be contacted at 371-2370 to 75, or e-mail exhi_national@yahoo.com.ho details.

Asya Enclaves' Hiyas model unit

The green, green grass of home in Mount Malarayat

A CLIMATE unlike any other in the Philippines? Lush landscapes? An unobstructed mountain view? Fresh air? Tranquility? Proximity to the metropolis? Well, in my opinion, this is not much to ask for by seasoned real estate developer Phinma Properties.

Like a lot of city dwellers, young professionals and families know the challenge of finding a good home within Metro Manila. Aside from location, quality and aesthetics, there are the commuting problems. With a number of real estate companies offering towering housing projects with close unit measures and steep prices, the ideal home is mostly beyond reach.

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Get the best of two cities with Victoria de Malate

FUTURE HOMEOWNERS need not suffer the high price tag to live in a convenient location. Banks in New Sea Icon Builders Inc. The company's leader in value-laden home-building recently unveiled Victoria de Malate, a residential condominium project located on Quirino Avenue in Manila, which is also in Makati City's doorstep.

Hilario Ruivello, sales head of Victoria de Malate, says giving prospective residents quality at an affordable price is one of New Sea Icon Builders' top priority. "For 24 years, we have strived to provide Filipinos their dream home. Victoria de Malate, with its value-laden features and its great location definitely fits the 'dream home' bill," he claims.

New Sea Icon Builders believes that a key advantage offered by the complex lies in vertical integration—a set up where costs are minimized because the company owns the construction arm of the project as well.

At the heart of Manila and Makati's doorstep

Professionals residing in the Makati business district will not have to strive commute to their office. A walk away from Taft Avenue, Victoria de Malate is along bus routes, LRT 1 stations and jeepney stops.

Aside from easy accessibility to churches, commercial centers and hospitals, parents will be glad to learn that Victoria de Malate is also child-friendly because it comes complete with kiddie pools, slide decks and play areas.

Residents also benefit from the discounts available in their condominium in their communities. Moreover, Victoria de Malate is a stone's throw away from the University of the Philippines Manila, St. Paul College, Philippine Christian University, the Philippine Women's University and De La Salle-Health Sciences.

"Its location really makes it an unbeatable investment homeowners can rave under," confesses Estrella "Nilo" Rosco of the development team created to give residents relaxing, comfortable spaces. "Make Victoria de Malate your home and you'll be a stone's throw away from the University of the Philippines Manila, St. Paul College, Philippine Christian University, the Philippine Women's University and De La Salle-Health Sciences."

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For more information on Victoria de Malate and other New Sea Icon Builders' projects, call 882-7777 loc. 204 or 0905-325-8122 or log in to www.nsib.com.

Global leader in heating and cooling technologies arrives in the country

JOHNSON CONTROLS, the global building efficiency pioneer and the leader in delivering solutions that increase energy efficiency in building previously announced its agreement with Stellar Equipment and Machinery Inc. (Stellar) to sell York brand industrial commercial and residential HVAC equipment, including air conditioning equipment to the Philippine market. The announcement of the exclusive distribution relationship deal was held yesterday at the Tower Club, Makati Life Tower in Makati City and attended by the different chairs of both.

Currently, Stellar has represented the brand across various industries such as finance, hotels, banking and retail, to name a few. Some of its prominent clients are the Land, Robinsons, Greenhills Shopping Center, Fit-mart, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, among others.

"We have enjoyed a strong and fruitful business relationship with Stellar for over 20 years, so we are pleased to count on them as our sole distributor for York products," said Jimmy Hong, building efficiency vice president and managing director for Asia. Johnson Controls. "When you combine tried and tested products with a tried and tested team of talents, it is difficult to see how the success could be anything other than good news for our many York customers in the Philippines."

For his part, Primex Group of Companies president and executive director Jimmy Thai, said: "This agreement is great news for the Primex Group's subsidiary, Atlas Construction in the air-conditioning segment is becoming stronger on the back of on-going growth in the local property market. The move will position us ahead to be in the front of challenges."

The Primex Group of Companies is a conglomerate for retailing and distributing the world's top consumer brands and industrial products and services. After 20 years of continuous and steady growth, it's retail outlets have grown to over 50 premium brands, 180 franchising concept stores, and over 600 consignment stores in the Asean region.

JOHNSON CONTROLS, STELLAR EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY PARTNERSHIP
Executives of the Primex Group of Companies, Stellar Equipment and Machinery Inc. and Johnson Controls during the signing of the exclusive distributorship of York brand industrial commercial and residential HVAC equipment. From left: Bryan Sia, sales manager, Stellar Equipment and Machinery Inc.; Steve Bang, building efficiency vice president and managing director for Asia, Johnson Controls; Jerry Thai, president and executive director, Primex Group of Companies; and Elaine Hao, area general manager for Vietnam, Indonesia and Philippines, Johnson Controls.

How to choose the right financing scheme for your dream home

Selling a lifestyle with your home seems commonplace in the real estate market nowadays. Some developers even go as far as offering nearly unbelievable financing promotions just to catch the attention of prospective buyers. And, as most advertising claims go, some of these offers hold true to their promise while others don't. Property buyers must then practice due diligence in studying these claims so as not to fall for any false promises.

Taking a closer look at these financing schemes and promotions, a number of factors must be considered by any buyer. These factors include the equity or downpayment (DP), the interest rates on the amount to be loaned, the projects or house models included in the promotion, the move-in schedule in relation to the payments made, and finally the credibility of the companies and financial institutions behind the financing scheme.

Taking a look at today's real estate market, the usual downpayment is at 20% of the total contract price of the house being purchased. Some developers have schemes "stretching" the DP over 24 months making monthly equity as affordable as possible.

In order to push the monthly equity even lower, some developers go as far as creating "5% DP", or even "0% DP" schemes. As attractive as these offers may seem, this is where buyers should start being wary of sudden balloon payments over their payment period, or even hidden charges that are added on top of the total contract price. These offers are usually just a creative repackaging of the standard 20% downpayment.

Going beyond the downpayment, buyers should also check on the interest rates offered by developers to pay for the remaining balance on the purchased property. More often than not, buyers are given a choice between in-house financing or bank loan schemes. Of the two, bank financing usually offers lower monthly amortizations. But, it is here that the buyer should always check on the interest rates being applied to the loan. These interest rates have a natural tendency to fluctuate with changes in the economy, so it would be best to safeguard your loan by "locking in" your interest rate at a price and timeframe that is reasonable when compared to the prevailing interest rate at the time of purchase.

Taking the downpayment, interest rates and monthly amortization into consideration can be a bit confusing for buyers who are not financially savvy. So a good way to gauge whether or not a financing scheme is ideal is to ask the seller to provide them with sample computations. This way buyers can be sure that they fully understand what payments are needed prior to maturity. Plus, the buyer can also check if future payments do not rise significantly after the equity period or some payments almost double after the downpayment period. Make it a point to compare financing schemes from different developers because that extra step will spell the difference between a good deal and a bad one.

Another factor that must be checked is the coverage of projects under a developer's promotion. Some developers fail to advertise that they offer only a limited range of products or house models. Again, buyers must check on this before committing to any dream home purchase.

In relation to the limitation in projects offered, buyers must also check the move-in schedule promised. It is also at this point that buyers should check whether the home they wish to purchase is already ready-for-occupancy (RFO) or not ready-for-occupancy (NRFO) as this would logically affect the timeframe in which a buyer can move in. Most developers usually offers buyers to move in once the downpayment is completed, thus, buyers should check whether the financing scheme they are availing of allows them to move into their newly purchased home as early as possible.

Finally, buyers should only avail of special financing schemes with claims backed by dependable and trustworthy companies. One such developer that offers innovative and honest financing schemes that have been trusted by Filipinos for over a decade now, is the Property Company of Friends Inc. (PRO-FRIENDS). Committed to making the dream homes of Filipinos a reality, PRO-FRIENDS continuously finds ways to make owning a home easier by offering trusted financing deals.

Holding true to its thrust, PRO-FRIENDS has recently brought to the market its breakfast financing scheme yet, a 10% DP term, with no balloon payments, no hidden charges, and with move-in after 12 months, for units that are still for construction. For ready for occupancy units, the 10% DP is payable in six months and the move-in is scheduled on the seventh month.

This special financing scheme is available in select PRO-FRIENDS properties regardless of the price. The interest rate for the bank loan is locked in at 10%, so all buyers are assured of a truly worry-free purchase.

To learn more about PRO-FRIENDS and this innovative financing scheme, call (02) 491-7700 (Manila Hotline) or (032) 330-3656 (Iloilo Hotline). Interested parties may also visit www.profriends.com for more information.

RESORT LIVING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY

Who would've thought that tropical resort living can happen in the middle of the busiest streets of Makati.

Mr. Francisco Licuanan III did. Philippine real estate icon and Chairman of GeoEstate developed The Beacon, a three tower residential condominium, to be the premium haven for the busy urbanites.

The Beacon boasts of its resort-like amenities like the 450 square meter pool, tropical green gardens, a well-equipped gym, inviting massage rooms and spas, private mini-theater and a breathtaking Sky Lounge with a view that reminds you that you're still within the city.

AMORSOLO TOWER NOW AVAILABLE

The Beacon continues to extend the resort-living lifestyle with the launching of its third and last installment – Amorsolo Tower. With its spacious units with a view of the Makati skyline, plus modern amenities capped with resort ambience, who wouldn't want to have a piece of this exclusive residential resort lifestyle right in the heart of Makati City.

Remember, this is the third and the final tower, your last chance to own a part of it. So when opportunity knocks, grab it!

Private Mini Theater

ARNAIZ TOWER IN FULL SWING

Arnaiz Tower is 97% sold. Construction is in full swing, another tower to look forward to in the Makati CBD's horizon.

ROCES TOWER TURNOVER

Good news to all Roces Tower unit owners! With the successful construction of the tower, the most awaited turnover will start this coming month of July. All units will come with top grade flooring, complete with kitchen and bathroom finishes and large windows to create a stylish living space.

Not only that, Roces Tower is equipped with a cozy lobby with pleasant staff who are readily available to assist you.

Lobby

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS THRICE.

THE BEACON'S THIRD AND FINAL TOWER IS FINALLY AVAILABLE!

Geo-Estate

THE BEACON MAKATI
The Residential Resort

The Beacon Amorsolo Tower now selling!

Grab the opportunity to own a prime condo unit right within the Makati Central Business District. Be a part of residential resort living now. Unit starts at ₱11,606 per month.

For inquiries, call **401-2881 to 82** or visit **www.thebeacon.com.ph**

HOME improvement

SPACIOUS enough for cocktails. FOYER of the Event Hall's foyer. COMFORTABLE sofas at the waiting lounge.

THE HOME DEPOT EVENTS HALL:

The building and construction industry's next event destination

FIRST, your building, finishing and furnishing and construction needs under one roof. Next, all the intangible value-added services you can think of. Now, an events hall where the building and construction industry's significant trade gatherings can take place.

The Home Depot by CW Group, the building, finishing and furnishing heroes, recently unveiled its newest addition to the Philippine events and functions in the building and construction industry. The venue is strategically located at the heart of the Central Business District - Makati City.

The 4,824 sq.m. modern events hall is located on the third level of The Home Depot Makati Branch: 2249 Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo), Makati City. It features a total floor area of 8,000 sq. meters and can hold up to 800 people on cocktails and about 500 people on banquets. The Home Depot Events Hall can also be converted into two separate halls suitable to smaller events.

Not only does The Home Depot provide complete line of quality building, finishing and furnishing materials to home owners and builders but also offers an avenue where they can meet and hold relevant trade functions for the benefit of its valued clientele.

"This is a step further from our first line business. With our first line outlets, we're able to cater to the needs of the end users, now we want to do the same with the trade professionals in an events branch," says Ferdinand Co, Managing Director of The Home Depot.

Since 2010, The Home Depot has been cross-marketing efforts as an alternate event host to its trade partners with the inception of The Adopt-a-Chapter Program initially for United Architects of the Philippines (UAP). Likewise, the fully air-conditioned Events Hall is expected to be a known venue for other special events like birthdays, weddings, company events, and many others on weekends. In addition to the stage, venue, pantry, catering area and luxurious comfort rooms (bathroom with The Home Depot's leading exclusive brand, Roca, the venue has spacious parking space for its guests.

With all these enticing features, plus its strategic location, The Home Depot Events Hall is truly the first and only venue for every up and coming event of trade partners in the building and construction arena.

For more information about The Home Depot Events Hall, you can reach The Home Depot Events Hall Administration at 633.5344 or info@thehomedepot.com.ph.

The Home Depot by CW Group is a joint venture of John Dewsnap Hardware Inc. and Woolfsohn Industrial Sales Co., both with long and outstanding track records in the building and construction. Visit The Home Depot's website: www.thehomedepot.com.

A FLOOR area that can hold up to 800 guests.

SECRET GARDEN

Think "out of the box," and add floral-designed pieces in your furniture, displays and even comic space for organizing your stuff in attractive, printed boxes. Box, P450 each, Home Home and Lifestyle store, Shop 22 Cubao Expo, Cubao, Suite 229 LM Design Plaza, N. Garcia St., Bel-Air 2, Makati City, www.homeshome.com.

Folgado fan, P2,450, Rustan's Department Store, Makati.

Lamp, P808 (lamp base), P130 (lamp shade), 3 Corners Flexible Partitioning Solutions, 2/F Madison Square, Pioneer, Mandaluyong City.

Chair, price available upon request, Home Home and Lifestyle store, Shop 22 Cubao Expo, Cubao (Mall), www.homeshome.com

Mary Katrantzou is a London-based Greek designer whose aesthetics are defined by bold prints, eye-catching graphics, interior design, and hyperreality inspirations. You might say her creations bridge the worlds of a striking, vibrant fantasy and detailed architectural lines. Famous for her trademark "lenticular skirt," Mary offers a Fall 2011 collection that is a rich source of ideas for making your home bright, chic and not to mention, stylish.

From Runway to room

Revamp your home with these pieces inspired by a world-renowned fashion designer.

By Diana Pineda, Southern Living Magazine

Just Jewels

Add some color to your couch with these jewel-toned throw pillows and refresh your home with scented candles that are as fragrant as they are decorative.

Pillows, P499.75 each, Our Home, SM Megamall

TEA TIME

Katrantzou's bell-shaped skirts remind me of ancient Oriental pieces, specifically Ming vases from China. This classic mug and tea set will add a vintage touch to your table.

Mug, tea set, price available upon request, both from Robinsons Department Store Galleria.

Scented candles, Hidalgo Truffle White Cocoa, Snow Flakes, P495 each, Rustan's Department Store, Makati

Decorative stand, P2399.75, Our Home, SM Megamall

CREATIVE CURVES

Katrantzou's designs are all about curves, contrasting prints, and exquisite patterns. Her creations that stand out are the dress with Fabergé egg-inspired prints. Your home will definitely become more interesting with these quirky, one-of-a-kind pieces.

Table clock, P2,500, Home Home and Lifestyle store, Shop 22 Cubao Expo, Cubao (MOL), Suite 229 LM Design Plaza, N. Garcia St., Bel-Air 2, Makati City (SOL), www.homeshome.com

Decorative wood eggs (many in floral), P295 each, Rustan's Department Store, Shangri-La Plaza Mall (MOL), Makati (SOL)

Wall decor, price available upon request, both from Robinsons Department Store Galleria

Whirlpool Philippines marks 100 years with innovative products

WHIRLPOOL PHILIPPINES kicks off the global company's 100th anniversary with the introduction of cutting-edge features on its world-class appliances as well as an exciting promotion to its loyal consumers in the Philippines.

"To celebration of Whirlpool Corporation's 100 years of world-renowned legacy and excellence in home appliances, we are excited to present the innovative features that are available in our products that promise to cater to the needs and lifestyles of Filipino families all over the country. These features were designed with the modern family in mind, while keeping with strict quality and environmental requirements in line with our commitment to safety and protecting the environment," relates Joy Cortes-Cruz, marketing manager.

Select Whirlpool refrigerators, washers and microwaves—even some of the 6th Sense features, an intelligent sensor that offers ease of use, energy efficiency and convenience for its customers. With this technology, Whirlpool 6th Sense refrigerators provide perfect cooling as it automatically senses usage patterns and adjusts the temperature inside the refrigerator as the lowest power consumption. Whirlpool washers, meanwhile, wash more efficiently as this line automatically adjusts the cycle, holds the water temperature at the appropriate level and maximize and control every aspect of the wash program. Whirlpool microwaves sweat with the 6th Sense Sensor offer perfection whenever you cook as this feature senses the length of time and the proper temperature needed to cook the food.

Apart from this line of products, Whirlpool's complete line of refrigerators is equipped with Front-To-Floor Doors, which add unmatched usability to one's fun allow customers to load more items in the door. This innovative technology provides increased insulation by injecting foam into the door cavity that expands into door shelves, corners and crevices, resulting to consistent temperature levels. The result: this technology, Whirlpool's new set of refrigerators provide cooling, added durability, and improved energy efficiency.

Panasonic bares the country's first anti-bacterial washing machine

$1,501 attempt to elevate fuchsia the standards to superior fabric cleaning. Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corp (PMPC) introduces the country's first vending machine with anti-bacterial cleaning features.

The fully automatic, top loading Panasonic NA-F90E1 washing machine is the latest washing machine from one of the world's most trusted home appliance manufacturers that will surpass head to head with others in the market with regard to pricing and overall performance. However, the Panasonic NA-F90E1 is truly a cut above the rest when it comes to superior fabric hygiene results.

The Panasonic NA-F90E1 has an ig hot Ionizer that allows water to pass through its Ag Crystal material and dissolves Ag ions. When this process happens, water gains an anti-bacterial effect, thus, consumers no longer need to buy anti-bacterial products.

Household benefit from this advanced technology by Panasonic as it helps prevent odor during precipitation, avoids unwanted smell when drying clothes indoors and cleans the tub to prevent the formation of black mold. In addition, the technology was proven safe on babies' delicate skin and poses no risk of skin toxicity or skin irritation as certified by the Japan Food Research Laboratories and BIO-Dynamics Scientific Laboratories Corp.

The Panasonic NA-F90E1 has twin fine filters that remove lint during washing to prevent it from collecting in clothes for a cleaner finish, and also an anti-bacterial solution. Even the lock portion, which is not really visible and oftentimes inaccessible for cleaning, is protected by the Ag and Bacterial coating against bacteria build-up.

Unlike the traditional center rub that is ineffective to drain off the water, the Panasonic NA-F90E1's Spiral Tub Rinse wipes off the water assisted by fins to the drain holes located at the outdoors most left in varying heights, leaving no unpleasant odor when laundry is done. Pillow not to mention, however, owners need not worry as passive chute protection is also there for spots to put on the inner cloth. It's Ag Air Filter prevents dirt particles from external air from flowing into the tub.

Its superior cleaning ability is matched by high-quality washing performance. Known as Agitation Dynamic Wave Plus, a function that combines sweat-and-strong rotating water flow to generate stronger water flow and squeezing effect by controlling the pulsator's rotational speed.

Engineered using a strong motor and bigger twin flapper, this washing device also has a Dancing Water Flow feature that rotates clothes in three types of motion: water flow. The first is Rose Swing, a high-power horizontal water flow with a powerful central vortex that vigorously agitates clothes. Alongside its motion is the Rose Flush, a unique water flow with high-pressure water jets from nozzles on both sides beating the clothes to launch off dirt ingrained in fibers. On the other hand, moving the water flow in greater heights is the Rose Tide, a vertical water flow to create a gentle down-solid action that teases and agitates clothes to remove stains tangling.

With its pulsator size and depth that are customized with additional fins, the Panasonic NA-F90E1 becomes more powerful to move and pass up water compared to conventional units sold in the market.

Its Foam Wash feature maximizes the chemical power of detergents to easily remove oily and greasy stains. Its quality motor and pulsator transfers to agitation of fine foam that penetrates well into the fabric. The foam then becomes 1.4 times more concentrated than regular detergent solution now has the ability to directly penetrate clothes and absorb and lifts grime seated deeply in between fabric fibers.

For fast yet meticulous cleaning, the Panasonic NA-F90E1 has its 6kg Top Load Spin Speed feature that reaches 20, 60 to 90 seconds that spins and permeates airflow to thoroughly blow off moisture and shortens the drying time. Its New Shower Rinsing technology, on the other hand, reduces water usage by up to 28 percent during rinsing.

For more details about the Panasonic NA-F90E1, visit http://www.panasonic.com.ph.

PEREZ JOINS JACINTOCOLOR STEEL INC.,

Ramon P. Jacinto, Chairman of Jacintocolor Steel Inc. (JSI), Manufacturer of the widely popular JACINTOCOLOR PREPAINTED brand rediscovery, Sabrina B. Perez, who recently joined JSI as President/CEO. Perez is a recognized leader in the roofing industry having been President of the Philippine Galvanizers Institute, Inc. (PGI) for more than 10 years. He brings with him more than 10 years experience and specialty expertise with JSI. Jacinto then addresses on Product and Service Integrity and Quality. Among JSI Pres. and Mr. Jacinto in the photo are from L-R: Ernie B. Legaspi- EVP/COO, Julius S. Magsaysay - VP Operations, Richard Lee - Marketing Sales Manager, Mila B. Bocobo - Comptroller.

The Home Depot unveils its newest milestone

IT WAS expected to rain cats and dogs that day but it never happened as the building and construction home, The Home Depot by OW Group had its fair share of blessings during the grand opening of its newest branch in Cebu Route Arena (formerly Pasong Tamo), Makati.

The intricate ribbon-cutting was graced by the building and construction's finest representatives Philippine Commission Association, United Architects of the Philippines, Philippine Institute of Interior Designers, Chamber of Real Estate and Builder's Association, Philippine Society of Plumbing Engineers, Philippine Overseas Construction Board, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of commerce and Industries, Philippine Association of Building Administrators and Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, members of the press and industry partners among others.

The successful ribbon cutting ceremony of The Home Depot Makati branch's three storey edifice was led by Makati City Mayor Hon. Jejomar Erwin S. Binay Jr. together with RB Hapidero Co and Ms. Hermina Chan, president and chair of The Home Depot, respectively on the store entrance.

The first ladies of OW Group - Drs. Estella Go Co, Ms. Ashley Uy, Ms. Lydia Chua, Ms. Susan Co, Ms. Jessel Co, Ms. Jennifer Co, and Ms. Esther Go opened the doorway to the Home Interior Superstore as they led the 2nd leg of the ribbon cutting.

The Home Depot managing director Mr. Ferdinand Co, Westpoint Industrial Sales Inc president Mr. Victorio Chua, Philippine Construction Accountants president Eng. Levy V. Espiritu, United Architects of the Philippines national president Archt. Rasmon S. Mendoza, Philippine Institute of Architects' president Archt. Antonio L. Lorenzo, Cebu Overseas Hardware Inc vice president Michael Co, White Horse Enterprises special assistant to the regional manager Mr. Jimmy Tee, and Cebu Horse Builder general manager Mr. James Co, opened The Home Depot Events Hall – the first state-of-the-art venue within a depot especially designed to play host to significant industry events and functions.

"This is a step further from our first two stores. With our first five outlets, we were able to cater to the needs of the end-users, now we want to do the same with the trade professionals for our newest brand," says Ferdinand Co.

The Home Depot is a joint venture of Cebu Overseas Hardware Co Inc and West Pure Industrial Co. Its existing branches are located at Ortigas, Mabuhay, Balintawak, Manila Bay and Pampanga.

THE Home Depot president Mr. Hapidero Co, Makati City Mayor Hon. Jejomar Binay, and The Home Depot chair Ms. Hermina Chan. Back (left) Bldrep Leopoldo Librojo, The Home Depot managing director Mr. Ferdinand Co, Philippine Construction Accountants president Eng. Levy Espiritu and The Home Depot's Mr. Victor Chua.

THE first ladies of OW Group – Ms. Jessel Co, Ms. Susan Co, Ms. Esther Go Co, Ms. Lydia Chua, Drs. Estella Go Co, Ms. Ashley Uy and Ms. Jennifer Co.

THE Home Depot Events Hall

THE Home Depot - Makati branch.

UAP national president Archt. Ramon S. Mendoza, PCA president Eng. Levy V. Espiritu, IUA president Archt. Antonio L. Lorenzo and The Home Depot managing director Mr. Ferdinand Co.

THE Home Depot chair Hermina Chan and husband Victor Chua

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Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Parenting

A first–Vuitton works with PH group for needy kids

By Alec T. Vergara

The luxury goods company's 'zero tolerance' for counterfeiting dovetails with the NGO's zero tolerance for child abuse

AT THE onset, it seemed like an unlikely pairing: Louis Vuitton, one of the world's biggest and most recognizable luxury brands, and SOS Children's Village, one of the world's largest NGOs dedicated to helping disadvantaged children.

But this seeming disconnect didn't stop Paris-based LV from forging a five-year partnership in 2010 with the Austria-based SOS.

Dubbed as "Partnership for Children's Futures," LV, through its intellectual property department, is donating $500,000 to SOS over the said period, to be divided among the NGO's key education and intervention programs in four developing countries: China, Vietnam, the Dominican Republic and the Philippines.

It marks the first time LV is donating to charity in the Philippines in a major way. The company is also expanding its Philippine store as Greenbelt 5, Makati.

Led by Bienvenido Delgado, SOS's national director in the Philippines, the NGO runs children's villages in Davao, Ups and Tacloban. Through Jean Baptiste Debaisa, president of LV in Asia-Pacific, the company has allotted $120,000 to SOS Philippines to be used over a two-year period.

Family-strengthening programs

The HK-based Debaisa recently flew to Manila to announce the development. Joining him in a media conference at Makati Shangri-La were Delgado and Shea De Vera-Aguirre, LV's

A PAGE 12

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Financial house toasts global brands

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LAUREEN Uy, Camille Co and Kyra Uy

KEVIEN Hue and Melissa Sanchez

KAT ALANO and Mr Schulz

PENSHOPPE VP for brand management Jaspar Evangelista, VP for merchandising Alice Lee

FIRST LIFE president and CEO Peter Cayetano, financial planner sophomore Alexander Peter Cayetano, Jaime Santiago

SAMUEL Uy, Larry Chang, Rose Tan

JOSEPH Tay and wife Stephanie Cayetano (far right) with Peña Bongcaw

ROMAN Kunicki, Carol Chua, Jakel Cruz

JAY LEGZAMBO, James Velasquez

SUSAN Ong, Elena Cuenco, Gerlie Rodis, "Mother" Lily Monteverde, Dingdong Dantes

MILA How, Charito Rodeo

EDISON Chiong, Jacob Gonzalez

ROBERTO Puebla, Israel Arroyo

BRAND director Alex Montilla (center) with Penshoppe brand ambassadors Vince Rosa, Isabelle Daza, Soriano, Mikael Daez

CACAY Nuno

PENSHOPPE'S latest fashion icon Jimmirol wears top-notch skinny Claire Jansen and floral Superwoman t-shirt by Obet Abesamis

Without batting an eyelash

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alain Yara Hagosa
posted by MIKEE PINAC CORTES

SEETLING MARIAGE Grove, tal was the meeting spot for our business Achieves whose First Life Financial held its Leaders' Day Summit 2011.

Peter Cayetano, president and CEO of First Life, welcomed top business leaders who have successfully steered their purchase to become global brands.

Guest speaker, in-chief Clarissa Campos-Ross, president and CEO of Unilab; Mariel Lorenzo-chan, president and CEO of Rustan House Group; and Dr. Vicki Belo, president of Belo Medical Group.

Belo told the audience of her "childhood" dream of "adopting" an advocacy to help people keep a good measure of self-esteem through the use hairremoval or their physical attributes."

Cayetano later led the conferment on financial planners of First Life's "Million Dollar Round Table" (MDRT) awards. The MDRT is a US-based association of the world's top-performing insurance professionals.

Honorable, the Court of the Table (COTT) awards, the next highest station after the MDRT, were given to Lourdes Yao, Lorna Lee and Alexander Peter Cayetano. The last received his second consecutive COT qualification on just his sophomore year as financial planner.

Jesse Gonzales, one of First Life's multi-awarded financial planners and this year's COT qualifier, made her grand entry to the MDRT Hall of Fame dubbings.

Gonzales also topped the President's Circle Hall of Fame, Top Producer of the Year award was Lourdes Yao. Platinum awards went to Susan Tan, Teresita Perez, and Lorna Lee while the silver went to Ashton Chua, Jose Ang, Pyn Villapando, Bernabe Ardan and Princess Gan.

Hue was awarded First Life's top agents. He likened financial planning "to planning an annual vacation, except that the former is a lifetime journey where one needs to face up to three certainties in life: living too much, living too long and being disabled."

"Good food from Pancake House is precisely "healthy diet," Cayetano added. "Good body enhancement services from Belo Medical and people in good shape to and behold, there is only one product in the world that can assist the advocacies of these products, but also provides the financial support for the journey to life's events. That is life insurance."

Now more than half a century old, First Life has close to P100 billion in financial protection for over quarter of a million Filipinos. It has distributed more than P2 billion in benefits.

First Life is a member of the Swiss Life franchise fold, the world's largest employee-benefits network.

Other life insurance was first privately-held affiliated with First Life.

Legendary feast

Five-star Legend Hotel, with the Legend Villas and Legend Palawan, held Silver Spoon, a feast for its invited guests.

Wydee King and his wife, Antonia King, welcomed the invitees to the classy Executive Boardroom of the Legend Villas. Manager Villaruz-ocio and lobby Raquel Villaruz-ocio, COO of Legend Villas and Mariel Lorenzo-Rustan, respectively, were here as a line-up welcoming diners with Ginomy King and sister Chesney King, COO and CFO, respectively of Legend Hotels and Legend Palawan.

Leading the pack of current and stalwart were Bank of Commerce's first VP Susan Alcala-Gruenes, Lotte Pardo's sales director Mary Grace Globe Gift, Leanning Delivery Inc boss Leonard Soriano, Bench Pink, Sony's Allan Jay Paredes and PLDT's training division chief Salam Leonardo.

The grand highlight was the presentation of eight new excellent cuisine dishes available at Lobby Bistro Restaurant of the Legend Villas, indefinitely.

Pure-flowing chilled Jacob Creek's red and white wines dressed the great vegetable quiche, fish parcel, prawn cakes, risotto, garlic and rosemary ribs, creamcrush pudding, chocolate and lemon panna cotta, and fried oysters with tartelettes.

Penshoppe's tare

Penshoppe joined Philippine Fashion Week with a bang by putting on a pair of its latest skinny jeans and glitzy cool ensemble. The fashion pairing was in pursuit of consumer values accrued to put Penshoppe a step ahead in planning on classic exposures, dubbings.

"We are highlighting the basics and reinterpreting them silhouettes," said designer and stylist Raoul Ramirez, who has put together "unvisited ensembles" for Penshoppe's eye-popping 'shebang' 2010 collection.

The prints and graphics on the nudity dresses are edgier. Slip into a pair of high-shine boots, so as to make the look totally sick, jokingly.

Or try on a pair of sexy shorts for that casual yet chic air. Or maybe go punk, dubbings, in a leather motorcycle jacket and scarred jeans. It's all about your mood, your choice!" explained Raoul.

Then, there's the must-have knitted jacket making a head turning appearance this season, dubbings. The knit, Mr Ramirez mused, comes to mind when one sees the jacket's bold shoulders and the unusual adornments that are incorporated, which will surely light up your ensemble in no time.

The bottom line, dubbings, is rock on!

Correction

In the June 13 column about Mari Moon in Review, "Christine Kayedoz" should have been Christine Hapeda. Sorry for the big mistake.

A first–Vuitton works with PH group . . .

From page B1

country manager in the Philippines.

Since the partnership's thrust in the Philippines is on "friendly-strengthening programs," the amount won't go directly to SOS's villages in the three Philippine cities. Each village is dedicated to raising and educating orphaned and abandoned children.

Instead, the amount is used to support families at risk of abandoning their children or making them work due to extreme poverty. The ongoing program, which targets kids from needy families within a 25-km to 30-km radius from the three SOS-run villages, places strong emphasis on preventing kids from being forced into child labor.

"There are already ongoing programs in Lipa and Tacloban, where we will start to outreach some of the kinds," said Delgado.

LV gave SOS Philippines a free hand to prioritize projects that need urgent funding, provided these projects are geared toward family-strengthening.

"It's quantifiable in the sense that you will be able to see healthy kids going regularly to school for the next two years. This is where the series of programs starts. It's a cooperation to get them healthy and in school," said Delgado.

"The program's thrust of supporting children living outside the three SOS-villages includes helping provide for their basic clothes and books," Jobson added. "By supporting their families, we are encouraging them to stay with their families, because we believe that no one or nothing can take the place of an ideal family in helping up a child."

EDD Baptiste Dehaes, president, Louis Vuitton Asia-Pacific

BRYN ENDO Delgado, national director SOS Children's Village Philippines

Perfect fit

It isn't central mom Chel Diokno's family-loving circle the three SOS-villages inculcates helping provide for their basic clothes and books," Jobson added. "By supporting their families, we are encouraging them to stay with their families, because we believe that no one or nothing can take the place of an ideal family in helping up a child."

But whether or not child labor is connected to the predicament of the LV founder and thereafter, people at LV have taken it upon themselves to focus on underprivileged children as part of the company's thrust.

"There are other forms of child labor, but in a considerable number of cases violence resulting is involved," said Dehaes, himself a father of two young children. "By supporting children's education, we are only helping children to develop a life of their own away from violence, but beyond that, to help them build a life for themselves."

Success stories

Delgado, who assumed the post in 2006 after a life-long career in e-banker, has witnessed countless success stories of SOS's former children-beneficiaries. Assistances in some cases extends up to college and even six months after graduation to help the fledgling graduates find a decent job.

"A number have since left to work for our Norwegian partners in Norway's shipping industry," he said. "Two finished their maritime studies and have landed jobs in Norwegian ships. Our SOS-Children's Village director in Davao used to be a child under our care."

The lucrative world of luxury fashion, wherein LV is a major player, may seem lightweight, but the underworld of counterfeiting, which it has spawned, is certain. In fact, it's a cause for concern not only to it, but also to its competitors, governments and those in allied industries.

Through its cooperation with Local police, LV has joined in regular raids in Greenhills in San Juan City and other counterfeit hotbeds in the Philippines.

"But it goes beyond Louis Vuitton and other luxury brands," said Dehaes. "We have counterfeit medicines, car parts. Often these are linked to a kind of parallel economy that involves loss of money and various forms of criminal activities."

It's a societal and corporate problem, he conceded, that requires vigilance and the concerted efforts between affected companies, the authorities and the public.

"As soon as they go outside the legal framework, not only do people involved in these illegal activities avoid paying taxes, they can also finance organized crime," he added that can be detrimental to both their economy and the general public's health," said Dehaes. "That's why Louis Vuitton has taken it upon itself to contribute to help solve the problem by assisting SOS's from and direct helping disadvantaged children. We still see what the real problem, but it's a start, all of us can make small differences."

That seamless style

SM Department Store Men's Shoes carries the widest range of footwear for the gentlemen on the go: from the classic black loafers to a foray of casual shoes of different color and styles, suited for every occasion, whether for work or play.

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AN APPRECIATION

José Mari Avellana, 70

By Gilda Cadiz

FOR ACTOR-DIRECTOR José Mari Avellana, who died of aneurysm on Sunday, it was an all-too-brief Indian summer. But while it lasted, it was a dazzling, sometimes heart-stopping, reminder of all the brilliance, substance and drama that must have attended the high noon of the man's career in Philippine theater and the arts.

In January 2008, 15 years after having done his last play Avellana came out to the stage in Repertory Philippines' production of "Tuesdays With Morrie," based on the Mitch Albom bestseller. He was as the dying but unbowed professor Morrie Schwartz, opposite Bart Guingona as the Albom alter-ego, encountered while auditioning by his wife-to-be Jeannette Antonio (Leonard Bobet' Best Actor honors the next year, given by the theater organization Philstage).

"Before this production," I wrote in this paper, "few young theatergoers had heard of the august actor, the scion of two National Artists' line. Theater—including the brilliant and feisty thespians Avellana—aged him still a lifetime of found stages in decades past.

"Tuesdays With Morrie" was to be Avellana's first foray into theater in 15 years. It was a gruelling part, requiring the actor to deteriorate, within two hours, in front of the audience's eyes as Schwartz succumbed to Lou Gehrig's disease.

'Avellana had to be visibly but inspirational—a prohibitively serious for any brave actor to make a touchy hunt of himself. Avellana, instead, employed the power resources at his disposal—the vast proud acting skills, his size, the wisdom of his seasoned years, the gravitas he wore with wry, graceful lightness—to sketch a figurative, transcendental portrait of a man unhazed by the dying of the light."

Dove as the Philippine Rota, writer and teacher Lito Alcala was moved to thapsodize: "By so completely embodying Morrie, Avellana makes what is otherwise prosaic speech acceptable as the epigrammatic poetry of the apocalypse."

Spectacular

As comeback event, it was a spectacular one. But, unknown to many it was fraught with peril. Avellana was already in fragile health at this time, but his return to the boards seemed to energize him, and with "Morrie's" success, he and Guingona found themselves on an extended run.

In a performance in Kidlat that May the unthinkable happened. As Guingona recalled (in a piece he wrote for the Inquirer), Avellana "collapsed onstage just as he was about to take his curtain call. In full view of a full house, I ran to where he lay and found him still" as a found, eyes glazed and dehydrated. I was horrified... When I turned to the audience to call for a doctor in the house (eyebrow I never dreamed Filipino one day), I mean here eheheh in that?) I was faced with an incomprehending audience, glued to their seats. I later learned that many had thought it was all part of the show."

It turned out Avellana had, earlier that week, sustained his ankle while on location shoot in a mountainous area for a foreign film production where he worked as make-up director, production designer and scriptwriter. He was taking corticosteroid anti-inflammatory drugs, not knowing it would aggravate his internals of sorts.

"Two minutes before the show started, Mari was feeling faint and nauseous but just kept it to himself," Ontiguena recalled. Avellana went through the entire house, progressively getting weaker—as his character did...but this time he void as the painkiller had begun to cause massive bleeding in his stomach.

"But Mari finished the show! In extreme pain and with a possibly fatal condition, he actually forced himself to make it through to the end!" Guingona could only marvel afterwards.

Avellana was rushed to the hospital and thankfully recovered. Even while still in bed, he made light of his whole ordeal—"in a cracked lisson profundo he joked (to Guingona) 'Wasn't that a great publicity stunt?'"—and was back to work soon after.

Renaissance man

The next year, he was back at Rep, directing a revival of the Nick Joaquin warhorse, "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino." The production was, in many ways, both a homecoming and a family affair. The streamlined text was the work of his mother and father, and had formed the basis of the 1965 film that Lamberto had directed, starring Daisy de Castilla and Nati Cruz-Rogers as Orelia. The Rep play not only took after the film's template, it also used the musical score by another Avellana—Lamberto Jr., José Mari's brother.

At the 23rd Ground Rubrey', the revival ran off with eight nominations, including Best Play, Best Director and Best Musical Design for Lamberto Jr., as well as acting citations for Nina Alfaro Santos and Liesl Batacuan as the Mat sangre sisters, and Dede Dela Paz as Juan Perico (who would win Best Featured Actor in a Play).

His scary brush with death onstage was but the most dramatic demonstration of Avellana's extraordinary commitment to his theatre work, which had by now stretched more than five decades. He was thrust into the stage in his teens, playing various roles in his parents' Barangay Theater Guild productions, then eventually flexing on various other theater groups. At

JOSÉ MARI Avellana as the dying professor Morrie Schwartz in Repertory Philippines' 2008 production of "Tuesdays With Morrie," based on the best-selling book by Mitch Albom

Bart Guingona once said of him: 'You are generous beyond imagination. You almost died to entertain us. The least we can say is bravo!'

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A CREATIVE way to keep your jewelry organized is by using small chinaware. Put those pretty little porcelain pieces to good use by placing them in drawers side by side to hold your rings, necklaces and earrings.

D.I.Y.

Hang the saucers and cups from sliding out of your by putting Duy Dangle or clay at the bottom of each piece, and pressing down to the drawer's bottom.

Another elegant way to keep them in place and make things-everyone-attractive is to line the drawers bottoms with a rich velvet fabric. Shown especially fabric scraps or shelf-liner paper from hardwareres.

KEEP your jewelry organized by using small chinaware.

Design tips to declutter your space

From boxes to hidden storage cabinets

DESIGN HAS organizing your things from an activity to look forward to. It always felt like a chore; like something you threw back into the deep end of a shelf when you savagely pulled a neatly folded T-shirt from the bottom of a stack of clothes. You would keep putting it off.

On this page, we change this old view of design organizing by promoting storage solutions not only as ways to putting your things in order,

DECOR and whimsy: Gladiola Bangit's six months-tireless jewelry, wire fan and other personal possessions are in their respective boxes. As a result, whimsical watercolor portraits are made to highlight up this functional space.

THE IMPOSSIBLE Task of keeping toys in order is accomplished with the use of storage boxes, trays, even color-labeled baskets. Hanging on the wall.

CLASSIFY and store. Groceries are organized to hidden kitchen storage cabinets

but also as decorative elements and in many instances as catch-all receptacles.

The creative process is combined with your own demands and lifestyle. Hopefully, it goes hand in hand with the mental exercise of decluttering your mind. With this in mind, you only need to try it once to realize it will never be a chore again.

Reprinted from Cocoon Magazine

José Mari Avellana, 70

From page B1

BIG, he was Ben Wingfield in "The Blue Mountain," Annie Tyrone in "Long Day's Journey Into Night," Al Pitt, he was Eddie Bonner in "Equus," Willy Tyrone Pilipino, he played Mahalap in "Desaparecidos" and the title role in "Crimen de Pasion." He was also in Filipino adaptations of "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "Who's Afraid Woolf."

WITH co-star Bart Guingona in "Sunday Mornings." "What's that a great publicity stunt?" he quipped after he collapsed onstage at the curtain call.

On film, he was last seen in the 2009 Cinemalaya entry "Colorum," for which he nabbed a Best Supporting Actor nomination in the 2010 Gawad Urian. He was also a writer, director, production designer, photographer, make-up artist, so—the kind of Renaissance man that had all but vanished in the time he turned the stage name again, decades later, as Maria Schwartz.

Graciosismo

He premiered another Off-Broadway production, before his triumph at the Star Philharmonic awards night, we had never met Mr. Avellana, but when our review of his performance in "Tuesdays With Morrie" came out, he staggered us with an e-mail. "Thank you very much for that 'shot in the arm' you gave my puzzle heart," he wrote. "Your generosity has inspired me to do more work on the boards."

Later that year, when we pointed him as Best Actor in a Play in each, nailed for this prize's ceremonial dinner around, up, our name marked a small "I

AVELLANA (back row, fifth from right), winner for Best Actor in a Play in the theater category Gawad Buhay! ceremonies in 2009 pose by the theater organization Phildrags, with other winners and their representatives, among them Ray Quinero, Vince de Jesus, Robert Seña, Shamaine Centenera-Buencamino, Dennis Marasigan, Sheila Mejia, Liza Bautista, Bong Cabrera, Bing Georgino, Melvin Lee and CB Garrucho

on speechless. I am humbled. I am inspired. Thank you very much for including me. You touched a warm spot in this grizzly's heart."

And when we posted in our blog a video clip of his brief but witty and classy acceptance speech at the Gawad Buhay! Awards, his usual generous, self-deprecating self in our mailbox: "I was thrilled to see that you posted my little acceptance speech, because I do not remember what in earth I said and was worried that I had made an ass of myself. Happily it was short and not so rambling as I thought."

Generosity—exactly the same spirit that guided Avellana to finish the show in honor the production and his role in the face of overwhelming odds, even of mortal death itself. Or as Shakespeare put it, "How are greatness beyond imagination. You always find to outdo'd kin as. The least we can say is bravo!"

Avellana passed away on Sunday, June 26, at Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center. He was 70. Cristy Zee—Reuters.

E-mail gelbuenda@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gelbuenda.blogspot.com, follow on Twitter www.twitter.com/gelbuenda

Oops, I can't remember his name

Here are tactics to try to jog your memory–but if all else fails, be honest

HIGH UP there on the list of people's social nightmares is forgetting a person's name. I'm sure you have found yourself in a situation when someone greets you so warmly, and you cannot for the life of you remember who that person is. The more you panic, the more you forget.

Of course, it goes without saying that you could be slightly rude to say "Who are you again?" or worse, "What's your name again?" Some people simply resort to "So nice to see you, let's catch up soon," but for the most part you are caught between a rock and a hard place.

Here are some tips to help you out. It is not by any means foolproof, but it may help you out of a sticky situation.

MODERN MANNERS

Liz S. Bernardo

Ask for the person's calling card. You can say something like, "How do I get in touch with you, do you have a card?" This usually works. When you receive the card, read it, and hopefully this will give you a clue as to who the person is. Problem: some others (as it very common in the Philippines) the person's full name is written on the card. The comparison is accurate for others not for your memory, not since the last sense. Of course this and some does not help very.

Panic

Panic sets in and you decide to make up a nickname and hope it is the right one. This is most definitely the wrong move to make. I tell to think it same because it has happened to me and many of my friends too often. Joseph Lalinde would very well be fine, and not, but, to do not even go there. Try like next level.

Try to link for common friends' names. If you have gotten to this point and still have not figured out the person's name and still have not been able to get out of the conversation, you are in deep trouble. You can ask questions like, "Do you still keep in touch with our friends?" It's lame, yes, but you have already come this far, and it's worth a try.

Try introducing a friend. The worst will become too simple to say, "I'd like you to meet my friend Jane." Then the person will say his or her name, hopefully.

Be honest. Of course honesty should be the last resort, but we all know that "I'm sorry I forgot your name" will not be easy to say. But at the end of it all, if you have to ask, ask.

Moral of the story is simple: Never pretend you are remembered. If you have not met a person for a long time, simply say "Hi, my name is John Jones," and extend your hand in greeting. That way, you save the person you are with from any form of embarrassment. If enough people practice this, maybe there will be less awkward social moments.

You can e-mail the author and send your etiquette questions to modernmanners.inquirer@gmail.com.

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More importantly, bringing your own Tupperware products helps you save money, too. Because you can eat out anytime without having to spend for disposable containers.

Health buffs, environment-conscious individuals, and the whole family can definitely benefit from bringing their own Tupperware lunch and snack containers as well as carry-anywhere products.

Bring healthy meals like fruits and sandwiches with Tupperware Small Square Bento, which has a virtually air-tight seal that keeps your food fresh and is very convenient and practical to carry anywhere with the tabs on each flap allow for easy opening.

Kids kids officially back to school, parents can also get them excited on the healthy lifestyle by bringing their own Tupperware Snack Box, the perfect, pack-and-carry container for kids' sandwiches, cookies, cookies and other snacks. It's easy to use and open, with its easy-open flip-up cover, and can even be used as grooming kit or school supplies keeper.

Kids will also have a blast while instilling in them the value of eating healthy with Tupperware's new Jolly Bento and Dot Wheels Tumbler and Modern Hand Bowl. The tumbler has a liquid-tight spout and their parents leaks, so kids can conveniently carry it anywhere. The tumbler boasts bowl has unbreakable, air-tight and liquid-tight seal top that locks in the freshness of your food and provides a handy way to store packed meals and everyday snacks.

By getting in the habit of Bringing Your Own, you are practically living healthy while helping save the environment and getting more savings. Bring your own safe, durable, high-quality and carry-anywhere Tupperware food and beverage products now!

Tupperware Brands is the authorized distributor of some of the world's prestigious brands including Tupperware, Colour Collection, Fuma, Pfaudler, Playtex, Rhino, Ishu Care Plus, Carex and Pyrotuff. For your questions and inquiries on how to be a dealer, log on to www.tupperwarebrands.ph or call the hotline number 467-2222.

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Taxpayers should not spend for 'privatized streets'

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Ardiña

DURING THE heavy rains and flooding last weekend, some motorists were complaining that alternative routes they could have taken to avoid bottlenecks on main thoroughfares and the floodwaters in many areas were not accessible because of the growing "phenomenon" of public roads being closed for several hours or night.

Without alternative routes, they had no choice but to make the already congested streets even more congested.

Perhaps chair Francis Tolentino of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority can look into the legality of many taxpayers being denied access to public roads for several hours every night because they have been "privatized" by residents there.

I do not think the premise, as hypocritical as it may sound, adopted by some neighboring Manila communities, has anything to do with security. Privatization can still easily come and go. So what is the reason for closing off these streets to motor vehicles?

Subdivision can keep their streets exclusive because homeowners paid for the construction of these roads and are spending for their maintenance and repair. But public roads are paid for by taxpayers, who are not asked which roads they would like their money to be spent on. Neither are they expected to demand that their taxes only go to their places of residence.

All other taxpayers, on the other hand, should have the right to demand that their money be used somewhere else.

Why should other people pay for something to which they are denied access?

Taxi 'services'

Taxis are offering surprising services these days. If you are desperate to recharge the battery of your mobile phone or laptop, there are hailing an R/C Diecab. Every taxi has some kind of contraption that allows you to plug the charger of your phone or laptop for some much needed "juice."

If you are very chatty and you get into a CBCS (transport taxi), you can find "certified" users. If you buy one, you could get one free. The bottles are displayed in a vest-like mini cooler. The flavors carried by the taxi also offer hints that can be crossed in 30 minutes by a sober company.

Trash cans needed

Banks should make it a policy to have trash cans near their automated teller machines (ATMs). I have been to some Metrobank branches where the floor is littered with discarded receipts. It is not a pretty sight, and certainly does not enhance the image of the branch. If they are worried about the receipts being stolen, they can probably shave it to something. Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), at least in the branches I go to, have trash cans, even if the machines are outside the bank.

People using the ATM should also be more mindful of where they throw their receipts. If they are only going to throw away the receipt, then they should not take it. They can just view their balance on the screen.

And if they must get a receipt, then they should just keep it until they find a trash can. It is just a small scrap of paper, barely it is not much of a burden to carry around until it can be disposed of properly.

Actually, people should hang on to their receipts, since these are the only records they have of their transactions. If there are discrepancies in their accounts, the receipts can help get things sorted out.

Send letters to The Consumer, Inquirer.net, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5000 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makati City; fax 897-9703/897-0; e-mail lbardina@inquirer.com.ph

PARTAWS Colours cardholders can enjoy extra-wide 15-percent discount when they use their Rustan's Colours Card at all branches of GMP Banana Republic until June 30. To avail, simply use Rustan's Citibank Card at GMP Banana Republic stores.

Food-tasting festival set today

OCEANA N SM Mall of Asia complex is hosting Grand Food Tasting: "Taste of the World" with live concert of a designated cuisine day on June 29, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. It will gather some of the country's best tavern suppliers who can provide foreigners informative product details and options, from practical recipes to stylish affordable packages that are practical on the budget yet doesn't sacrifice quality and personalized service.

"We want to present clients the options to make their event possible... and make sure the best suppliers will make their events a success," said Melinda Moreira, corporate sales and marketing manager of The Concierge Group Events Places.

Some of the featured suppliers are Shimmers World Fans and Skin Care; Verbena Jackson (professional makeup); Photo Nuts (photo booths); Sound Ensemble (sound systems); Perl8™'s Jodi Bautista and Luis de los Santos (musicians); Cleon Mobile Bar; Mykel Francis Macaraig Events Styling and Stage Design; Wine Warehouse and 8 Ryuki Cuisine and photography.

Call 5001106-37 or 7282713, e-mail info_c2.eventsplace@hymail.com or mobile no. 09999812860.

Songwriting contest

Never Visions, the beauty company's first ever global online singing talent search, now opens its songwriting competition to women and men age 16 and up.

To win, simply submit a digital file and lyric sheet of a 2-4 minute original song of hope and optimism at its website.com. Deadline is July 1. Up to three may be selected.

Judges include music personalities David Pack, Fergie, Blake Shelton, Natasha Bedingfield, Los Lonely Boys, Valerie, Bette Sosa Bros., Sheila E., Diego Torres, Jake Sunyata and Mela.

"Stand for the Stars," a song written and sung by Bedingfield, and "Until You Love You," written by Shelton, produced by Pack and sung by Valerie and other artists, are available at itunes.com. A percentage of the purchase will go to the Avon Foundation for Women's global campaign to end violence against women and girls.

ENTERTAINMENT

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VIVEK Kapoor wins Mark Arnaiz, at his role in "Sikip," an ongoing series. "This is my first time to play a geek and I watched the late Christopher Reeves' take on Clark Kent. This is the closest I've come! I'm reliant I can say is really relieved acting."

HEARD

RACHEL Weisz and Daniel Craig

Ultra-secret, like espionage

NEW YORK—James Bond actor Daniel Craig and Oscar-winning fellow Brit Rachel Weisz have married after a whirlwind six-month romance, law specialists revealed on Sunday.

Craig, 43, and Weisz, 41, tied the knot on Wednesday in an ultra-secret New York ceremony, Reuters said, only four guests were in attendance—two family friends acting as witnesses, Craig's teenage daughter and Weisz's young son, Wetzel—just four Filipino Mets could attend the wedding.

The pair are continuing on a new honeymoon, "Dream House." They have reportedly been friends for years, but began a highly hush-hush romance on the set of the film, which is set for release in September.

Craig has a daughter from his previous marriage to Scottish actress Fiona Loudon. He was engaged to film producer Satsuki Mitchell for two years. They split in 2010.

Weisz, who won a supporting actress academy Award for 2005's drama "The Constant Gardener," was a twice-her-size previous relationship with "Black Swan" director Darren Aronofsky which also ended last year. AFP

Sineng Pambansa goes to Mindanao

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHILE previous festivals were held in malls, the Sineng Pambansa edition in Lanao del Sur is going straight to the students of the Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City.

The Lanao del Sur Film Festival, which opens today and runs till July 1, is an outreach venture of the Mindanao Solidarity Band and the Kandaya-ko Theater Hall Entertainment Video Service.

Marcia Santos, head of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), event organizers, feels it's important to visit Marawi. It is the second Mindanao city to host the fest, after Zamboanga in February.

"Marawi is a sophisticated cultural scene, but it's not usually represented in mainstream movies and has not been sufficiently exposed to the latest trends and developments in local cinema," Santos explained.

During the fest, festival plans to reach base with Filipino regions filmmakers as well. Coinciding with the event is a short film contest with the theme "Peace is ..."

Participants are from the province; the winner will be announced during the festival.

Among the jurors will be Arnold the "Filipino Cameron," said Santos. "That is the number one of filmmakers and film buffs, led by PDCP, that will be monitoring from Cagayan de Oro to Marawi City. We bring with us the message that cinema can be a unifying cultural medium in a country of varied ethnolinguistic groups. We may achieve in different battles and social concepts, but we share a common history and destiny."

FDCP is working with Gov. Mominal Abato Adiong Jr. and provincial coordinator Princess Tarhata Benasan on Sineng Pambansa's Marawi leg.

INSIDE

■ **Sam Pinto picks her 3 hottest men** Rushes /E3

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■ **Ice cream, 'balut' vendor succeeds 'siomai' peddler as 'Pilipinas Got Talent' champ** Cheer Factor /E5

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Sampagnita movies now in Nat'l Archives

DID YOU KNOW...

THE ENTIRE movie collection of Sampaguita Pictures has been turned over to the National Film Archives of the Philippines (NFAP). Over 200 titles, dating from the first Golden Age of Philippine cinema in the 1930s, have been deposited at the NFAP, according to Brenda Santos, chair of the Film Development Council of the Philippines. Sampaguita is one of the country's "Big Four" studios—along with LVN, Premiere and Lebran. Bayani San Diego Jr.

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SM CITY BACOOR
SM CITY SAN PABLO
SM CITY BATANGAS
SM CITY CLARK
SM CITY CALAMBA
SM CITY BALIWAG
SM CITY STA. ROSA
SM CITY MANILA
SM CITY TARLAC
SM CITY LUCENA
SM CITY DAGUPAN
SM CITY BAGUIO
SM CITY LEGAZPI
SM CITY NAGA

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SM CITY LIPA
SM CITY TUGUEGARAO
SM CITY CLARK
SM CITY SAN PABLO
SM CITY CALAMBA
SM CITY BACOLOD
SM CITY BAGUIO
SM CITY MANILA
SM CITY STA. ROSA
SM CITY TARLAC
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Opening This Week

Manang Komiru

Directed by: Cris Pablito; stars: Andrea Del Rosario, Ai-Ai de la Cruz, John Feir, Gerard Gonzales, Bianca Steam, Joel Magsaysay, Lou des de Sera

Three people cope with fate. A man mourns his wife's death after Undoy. A middle-aged guy is separated from his boss. A teenager and his best buddy grow apart. From the same writer-director of "Dyesi," "Bathboys" and "Boylets," this guy film was approved without cuts.

Transformers: Dark of the Moon

Directed by: Michael Bay; stars: Shia LaBeouf, John Malkovich, Hayo Huwing, Josh Duhamel, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Patrick Dempsey

Allen-Adam's race to the moon in search of an ancient spacecraft. And It Is God News scores: "This one dares to go dark, [revealing] the often-lacking component of many Bay films: emotion."

Monte Carlo

Directed by: Thomas Bezucha; stars: Selena Gomez, Andie MacDowell, Cory Monteith, Leighton Meester, Katie Cassidy

In Paris, American girls go from couch to first class when one (Gomez) is mistaken for a British heiress. Commercialmovies.org says "manners and teens [will] claim this movie as a summer must." Rottentomatoes.com drama it "isn't a great film, but it's enjoyable." Opens today.

Tyrannical stars bully reporters

THERE were not worse than media interviews.

Showbiz TV Reporters refused that Beautiful Starlet executed them online not to talk about a recent controversy. The lead an chance but to comply because IO would complain to bosses if they didn't follow.

A similar thing happened in exclusive. Nosebleed TV Interviewers were scared to ask Emma this about her troubled love life. "I'll stay with the interview mentioned to," NTI) said.

Whatever happened to press freedom?

Most hated

Scoring gained a nasty reputation as the most hated woman on the Set. Sexy Starlet decided on a change of tactic.

IO incurred the ire of jealous fans after publicly flirting with Handsome Athlete, for she denied dating Ms. and now is single she's happily involved with a certain somebody pop Choo!

Take two

Presiding Actress got sidelined when getting knocked up by her beau. Turns out, it wasn't the first time.

IN was already a mom when she joined the biz. Still, nagpatanggal pa rin siya sa showbiz at nagpahinga muna.

Like most of her colleagues, Ms is gifted and can upstage the most popular soap stars on the block interviews.

Starlet challenged

Pretty Starlet kept denying to former Headliners that she has moved to another studio.

PS swore to high heavens, but unknown to her, Hik-ulot's little shuttling not found out the truth. While PS was denying the rumor, her new employers were scheduling a makeover for her.

Same thing happened with Cute Idol, who kept refuting talk of his impending knockout, though the film already leaks.

Top of the Talk Shows

We three who-cares-but-curious-ang-kapalan-ng-mukha-ni-Ms. guesses (and why) are our second, (Pare ano nangyari?)

• Solenn Heussaff, asked if she's ready for a new relationship: "I want, but I just don't have the time to find someone!" (Pare si gold.)

• Alyx Alcantara on his relationship with Kylie Padilla: "Sa ngayon, kami si Kylie exclusively dating pa... wala na po akong nakikitanan kasi iba." (Naks, we know how that goes.)

• Robin Padilla to Aljur Abrenica on how to save his band: "Kilalanin niya 'yung puso ko, kilalanin niya 'yung pamilya ng sinasabi ko... magkakasundo kami, dahil nung dumaan dun sa mga butas-butas ng pinagdaanan ko, nandun siya sa tabi ko. Eto, eh, ibig sabihin nun, mga seryoso siyang tao." (Hmmm, ha?)

• Sam Pinto's Rumor Has It debut movie "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover" (Hmmm, good title.)

• Sam Pinto on Rumor Has It debut movie: "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover" (Hmmm, good title.)

• Alyssa Alcantara, si Baby Ida dahil matalik niyang kaibigan ni Julia, ay pwedeng-pwede sa Rocco Nacino? (Hmm, pwede ngalo)

• Maggie Ary thrills on his girlfriend Erin Bernad getting nominated by a playpocket at the Miley Cyrus concert: "Sabi ko sa kanya, 'Wala! ano ka gago kung ng pera para 10 Actor mo?'" (LOL! Jaurel.)

• Robin Padilla, asked if Marian Rivera and Dingdong Dantes are planning to have a baby: "Huwag muna! Just Dodo nga nagsusuyo ng mga ano eh... ang daming umaali." (I'll be quiet then sirs...)

• Maja Salvador, asked when she's going to submit her relationship with Matteo Guidicelli: "Wowang muna nag-chong dahil wala naman kaming commitment!" (Ayun, malinaw.)

• Matteo Guidicelli, asked if he's in love with Maja Salvador: "I'm just trying to be the best I can for Maja. I just want to be my best. Maja deserves a lot more... we'll see what happens in the future!" (Ay, timatay!)

RUSHES

SAM PINTO'S heisme sons Aljur Abrenica (above), Robin Padilla (left) and Baron Geisler (far left).

Ayala Malls

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (2D)
11:15 2:00 4:45 7:30 10:15PM
2) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON
1:00 3:45 6:30 9:15PM
3) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (3D)
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00PM
4) FOREVER AND A DAY
1:00 3:45 6:30 9:15PM
5) MR. POPPER'S PENGUIN
1:45 3:30 5:15 7:00 8:45PM
6) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON
12:00 2:00 10:30PM
7) GREEN LANTERN
11:45 2:30 7:15 9:00PM

GREENBELT 1

1) GREEN LANTERN
1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30PM
2) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON
10:45 1:45 4:00 8:15PM

GREENBELT 2

1) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON
11:15 4:15 10:45PM
2) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (3D)
1:30 5:00 11:00PM
3) MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00PM
4) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (3D)
12:00 2:30 6:30 9:15PM
5) GREEN LANTERN
11:45 2:00 7:30 10:15PM

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON
10:30, 12:00, 1:30, 3:00 5:30PM
2) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (3D)
11:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45PM
3) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (3D)
12:00, 2:15, 6:30, 8:45PM
4) GREEN LANTERN
12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15PM
5) MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:45PM

ALABANG CENTER CINEMA

1) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON
10:45, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15PM
2) GREEN LANTERN
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:30PM
3) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON
12:00, 3:30, 9:30PM
4) MR. POPPER'S PENGUIN
1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30PM

MARQUEE

1) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON
11:00, 2:15, 5:30, 8:45, 10:30PM
2) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (3D)
11:00, 2:00, 4:45, 8:00, 11:00PM
3) MR. POPPER'S PENGUIN
12:00, 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:30PM
4) GREEN LANTERN
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00PM

MARKET! MARKET!

1) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (3D)
12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00PM
2) GREEN LANTERN
11:45, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00PM
3) MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
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11:30, 1:30, 5:30, 8:30PM
7) FOREVER AND A DAY
12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 8:45, 9:00PM

TRINOMA

1) FOREVER AND A DAY
12:45, 3:15, 5:30, 7:30, 9:45PM
2) GREEN LANTERN
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:30PM
3) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (3D)
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1:15, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 9:45PM
6) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON
11:00, 2:00, 5:30, 11:30PM
7) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON
12:15, 4:00, 7:15, 10:15PM

4TH LEVEL

ABREEZA

1) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (3D)
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 9:45PM
2) TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON
12:15, 3:15, 6:00, 9:00PM
3) MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:30, 9:30PM
4) GREEN LANTERN
12:15, 2:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30PM

For ticket reservations or purchases,* text SureSeats to 2910 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com

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MALL EVENTS

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Magnus Job Fair
June 28-30, Glorietta Activity Center

GREENBELT
Easter Round Show
June 10-30, Greenbelt 5 Fountaincourt

MARKET! MARKET!
Mad About Books
June 27-July 3, Activity Center

TRINOMA
Chinese Ball Phantasies
June 10-30, Level 1 and all aims near Chinese

MARQUEE
Avon Recognition Event
June 28 Activity Center

ABREEZA
Friday Fun Day
Watch and learn cool tricks in our magic show.
FREE! Ice tools and tools all treat! July 1, Activity Center

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A. LIPPY BY JEG MIRON

PUGAD BABOY BY PH. LUYUDE

DICK TRACY

LOVEHKOTS BY ELIZABETH MCCHORALD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE BY TAKAO AZUMA

SEDI BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DILBERT BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK BY PARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Work or study and relaxation activities continue to be overemphasized. Some of this time, that is also the perfect time for social interactions and make plans for your future as well.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This is a busy time for you! Social trips and conversations with siblings, and creative activities, and friendships make you the center of attention.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your relationships are intense, and you'll find spiritually you're developing a new level of thinking and awareness. You're also thinking about your values. What really matters?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Be careful not to let your own inner voice distract you as you're trying to listen to others. Make the most of the time you spend with friends over the next few weeks.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Work or material life comes to the fore this week. Pay attention to your finances, and be careful not to overspend. Also, be careful with your health.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Your psychological insight is extremely keen, and many relationships will change. The coming weeks are a wonderful time for romance, dates and experiences.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is the only time all year when the sun is in that area of your chart, offering them as you discover yourself and what you want. Be careful not to hurt others' feelings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be sensitive to others as well as your own. Social activities are favored, and you'll find yourself in the right place at the right time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You're in a very creative phase, and you're also very aware of your own needs. Be careful not to overspend. Your finances are favored.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You're not only more self-aware than ever, but you're also more aware of your own flaws. You're more productive and organized.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You want to socialize, especially with friends. You're also interested in new ideas and exciting experiences. It's a great time to travel or to study.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You're extra sensitive to others' moods and emotions. Today romance, creativity, and pleasure are favored. Don't forget to have fun!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles and programs see www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

5	6	7	1	3	4	2	8	9
1	3	9	2	8	5	6	4	7
2	8	4	6	7	9	5	3	1
7	2	1	4	5	3	9	6	8
6	4	5	9	2	8	1	7	3
9	3	8	7	1	6	4	5	2
3	1	6	5	4	2	8	9	7
4	5	2	8	9	7	3	1	6
8	9	3	1	6	7	7	2	4

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		9	3					
				6				
		3	9	7	5	1		
	4			5			2	
1								8
7								6
4								7
	3			1			4	
		1	8		7	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★

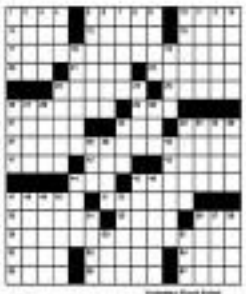
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Double-crosser
5. Mixed metals
10. Ms. Lupino
14. Lily plant
15. Ms. Merkel
16. Owner of Lakers
17. Comedians
18. Ms. Gabor
19. Officials
20. Appropriate state
22. Ms. Hayes' daughter
23. Hair feature
24. Ms. Lahr
25. Ms. Ryder
26. Article of clothing
27. Famous snack
29. Computer operating system
30. Fashionable
31. Hairstyle
32. Shirt part
33. Ms. Gardner
34. Ms. Lawson
35. Ms. Bergen's daughter
36. Ms. Lupino's daughter
38. Ms. Ryder's daughter
40. Ms. Bergen's daughter
41. Ms. Ryder's daughter
42. Ms. Lupino's daughter
43. Ms. Lahr's daughter
44. Ms. Gardner's daughter
45. Ms. Merkel's daughter
46. Ms. Hayes' daughter
47. Ms. Lawson's daughter
48. Ms. Gabor's daughter

DOWN

1. Nanny goat of Jane
2. Lawyer's objection
3. Ms. Merkel's appointment
4. Actress Bell
5. Ms. Ryder
6. Ms. Lupino
7. Ms. Bergen's daughter
8. Ms. Gardner's daughter
9. Ms. Hayes' daughter
10. Ms. Lahr's daughter
11. Ms. Lawson's daughter
12. Ms. Gabor's daughter
13. Ms. Merkel's daughter
21. Ms. Lahr's daughter
22. Ms. Ryder's daughter
23. Ms. Lupino's daughter
24. Ms. Bergen's daughter
25. Ms. Gardner's daughter
26. Ms. Hayes' daughter
27. Ms. Lawson's daughter
28. Ms. Gabor's daughter
29. Ms. Merkel's daughter
30. Ms. Lahr's daughter
31. Ms. Ryder's daughter
32. Ms. Lupino's daughter
33. Ms. Bergen's daughter
34. Ms. Gardner's daughter
35. Ms. Hayes' daughter
36. Ms. Lawson's daughter
37. Ms. Gabor's daughter



Answers to previous puzzle

Ice cream, 'balut' vendor succeeds 'siomai' peddler

By Ellen Peñaranda
Lead Stylist
Photos by Arnold Almacen

UNTIL recently, ex-make-ready escort, Marcelino Pesay spent his mornings selling ice cream, and his nights peddling balut in Ilaya, Cavite, his hometown. That's about to change. The 28-year-old singer won ABS-CBN's reality talent search, "Philippine Idol Talent 2," at the Araneta Coliseum Sunday night.

Beating 11 other contestants, a tearful Marcelino raised his fist in triumph upon being declared grand champion by "POTC" judges Kris Aquino, Ai Ai de las Alas and Freddie Garcia. Were trembling, he thanked all his supporters.

In contrast to Season 1 winner Jovit Baldivino's (a former siomai peddler) landslide victory, this year's title was fiercely contested. Marcelino barely edged out the top-dancing brothers Happy Inez, with 15.66 and 14.32 percent, respectively, of the total voteswreck votes. Third place was the high-flying dance verve Pennylane, from Calamba, Laguna, with 9.46 percent.

Dubbed "Male Sisa" by fans for his ability to sing it in Bagine Wikangani, Marcelino has been a favorite since the auditions phase for his impressive renditions of "Sisa Ako," "Mama Maalo Hindi" and "I Will Survive Yapcon."

At the show's end, Marcelino gave an encore of his winning piece from the night prior, "The Prayer," originally recorded by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli. Singe five, weeks (including behind him, Marcelino was awed with a standing ovation and cussing cheers as he cradled the inspirational duet by acoustic guitar-walking from a high fiancée was too naive bottom and fresh.

Marcelino was handed a check worth P2 million. The second and third placers received P500,000 each, and the 11 others, P50,000 apiece.

The Champion also got to perform onstage with Gary Valenciano, Jaycee Parfilo, Sci-divinoid, Alex Ferguson, John Prats, Rayver Cruz, Sab Mercedes and Jhong Hilario.

Success made sweeter

More than the money and the prospect of fame, Marcelino's win was made sweeter by a recent reunion with his estranged family.

Marcelino was just six months old when his mother, Aurora, left him and his three siblings with their father, Ireneo, who was in jail. For very years, the children lived in poverty. Then their father decided to put them up for adoption.

Last year, Marcelino found his father in his native Antipolo del Sur and, more recently, his mother and siblings in Manila.

Asked what it felt like to perform for his family, Marcelino said, speaking in straight Tagalog, "I just prayed that they'd be proud of me. I had long dreamt of coming to Manila to find all of them. I'm very very happy that I finally did. I hope we can forgive one another and get along well together, after all these years."

Worthy opponents

The other finalists proved to be worthy competitors with world-class talents.

The Hiyaniyan opened grand finals performance night on Saturday with an exciting blend of acrobatics and breakdancing. Members of the audience held their breath as the dance troupe pulled off a series of death-defying stunts highlighted by naked double-somersault dismounts.

Happy Inez, from Liloan, Bukidnon, was a sentimental favorite. Brothers Franzonie and Jeanelito brought judge Dr Ian Alas to tears with their music competition number, Whigfield's "Close To You."

Dancing magician Kiro Samoza, 48, gave the audience quite a scare when he impaled his wife with a spear. To resounding cheers, Rico also produced two geese from thin air, put them in a steel cage, then turned them into a 70-kilogram pig. Fellow magicians and last year's finalist, Alakdan, was spotted in the crowd, cackling in approval.

Angel Calubia, 20, dubbed "Queen of Pin-k-Boogie," twirled flaming rings around her arms and waist and drew gasps when she was hoisted up for an underside exhibition.

T&P DANCING brothers Happy Inez

"PILIPINAS Got Talent 2" grand winner Marcelino Pesay with judges Ai Ai de las Alas, Kris Aquino and Freddie Garcia

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GREEN LANTERN

NOW SHOWING

Josh Duhamel rallies for hometown's flood recovery

MINOT, North Dakota—Hollywood actor and Minot, North Dakota, native Josh Duhamel has been named honorary chair of a fund set up for the city's flood recovery.

In a statement, Duhamel said he grew up in Minot and his sister and her family lost their home to flooding from the Souris River. Duhamel says he would always consider the city home.

The fund was established by Minot Area Community Foundation. AP

No sibling rivalry between Rap, Renz

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

RUBY FERNANDEZ and Lorna Tolentino's sons Rap and Renz are now officially concert stars of ABS-CBN. How does Rap handle the pressure of being compared to his famous parents?

"I don't let the pressure get the better of me," he says. "As my mom told me, I should focus on my craft and block everything not related to work."

Isn't there any sibling rivalry brewing between him and Renz? "Renz and I are supportive of each other," he points out. "He is my half brother. Mark Anthony (who gives me advice. Everything I do, I offer to my late great dad."

On his father Dodong is well on his way to continue his dad's legacy.

No rich-to-get hitched

Jinkee Pacquiao confirmed that the annulment of her marriage to Ex Binabae Tan Laughlard has finally been granted.

So when are her wedding plans with Tito Sotto? "We want to plan out the details of our daughter's future first (Queenie and single Mirasolmay before they embrace marriage. But when they're ready, I want them to give me as many grandkids as possible."

With all the drama that Zoe and Tito Sotto play have encountered, they feel even more excited than some couples who just say to-gether-for-ever.

Grand escape

A darling politico who's being linked to a show biz flesh-maker rushed out in the middle of an important meeting when he was informed by his secretary that SP was on his way to his office. She's avoiding him like the plague.

While other politicos would orchestrate ways to be linked to the popular figure for publicity mileage, this politico has way too much class to be dragged into SP's messy life.

ZSAZSA Padilla

Hot pursuit

Could it be true that a hot young actress is pregnant? And the "culprit" is a political veteran? If she's really up the family way, maybe that's all the more of his Homecoming scene?

Vice without Jan

All is well and in the Big Dome on July 1 for "Vice Kenda." Joking (accepted by its name)? I pass. The committee is said to have exhausted all means to entice Jay with a good show, even hiring an illusionist to teach him how to levitate. He will take its pole-dancing.

His parents Bembong Vico, Billy Crawford, Christine Reyes, Toni Gonzaga and Xian Lim will have their hongang moments with Vice which will more than tickle the audience's funny bone.

But why isn't his close friend Jun Sabayon joining the show? "He was a guest in my first concert," Vice explains. "How in your 1st or 2nd guest. But we can indge tabalera."

What does Jun have to say about this? "I guess that's just another way of saying that we're good friends," says Jun.

Personal: Birthday hugs and kisses to one of my sweet friends ever, **Louie Heredia**! Happy 12th birthday to my bb shimai. **Mikaela Reyna**.

E-mail:

Dear mga ate,

Ikka na. Meron na ang pinoise ang sa internet. Dahil kaneo sagabas ang bayan DSL ng maximum speed of 3Mbps, pero P899/month pa rin! Yes, it's true! P899 pa rin. With up to 15GB of data usage allowance. Para sa mga 'di sochie, hindi 'yan kinsang galunggong at bangus. Ban just like fish, it's good for you! Bauahin ang bawat isa na example ke para mo gets.

Para sa mga stalker

Gahit buong gabi n'ya tingnan ang wall ng crush n'yo, pwede. O meski pa wall ko! Magsawa sa kaka-access ng Facebook, Twitter at Friendster — sa social gaming site na para ngasos. Hello, sosa news feed ko kaya 'yun.

Para sa mga walang balak maligo

Sit back, relax at bumisinjng sa komunsod ng around 1B downloaded movies. Pwedeng ulit-ulitin ang mga paborit kong eksena kahulad ng ever-so-famous na "You're nothing, but a second-rate, trying hard copycat" ni Cherie Gil.

Para sa mga taging OP

Sa awa ng Diyos, magiging una na kaya sa hottest viral videos and TV shows. Bago n'yo pa man mapanood yang video na 'yan on YouTube or WeTV, malamang napanood ko na 'yan 3 weeks ago. Around 47 hours ba naming pwedeng mag-stream eh. Lumaso sa nicotizer at baka lumaso ang mga mata.

Para sa mahilig mag-Facebook

Pwedeng lagyan ng soundtrack ang buhay n'yo. Kahit nasaan man kaya, sa Lorreta o kubeta, pero na rin kayang star sa sarili n'yong MTV, or karaoke video, dahil sa around 1,715 songs sa pwedeng i-download.

Para sa apo kong si Jil

"Di pwede't magagamit na ang instant messengers for around 996 hours ay puro barkada na lang ang isa-tikpe at isa-YM! Spend time with your lola too! Madaming (OL, KOTL, and UMPOMSMK yun! Hindi n'yo alam ang UMHOWSMK?! Tik, talaga sasnang mas cool pa sag lola n'ya kaysa sa inyo.

Salamat sa bayanDSL, buhay na buhay ang internet. Salit sa bicks. Like ko talagat! Kita kits sa www.bayandsl.com.ph! Kthxbye.

LOVE,
Lola Techie <3

PS. Ang cute ko sa picture, noh? Ikthxbye. Add mo sa FB!

*Max. speed. 15GB usage allowance

VMS

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Intel invades the tablet market

By Raquel P. Gomez

World's largest chip maker is joining the tablet fray as it showcased tablets powered by Oak Trail chip

While Qualcomm and NVIDIA are making a lot of noise, trumpeting their latest ARM architecture based mobile chips dual core Snapdragon and NVIDIA dual core Tegra2--as the power behind smart tablets and smart phones currently in proliferation. This time, Intel is seriously joining the fray as it showcased to the public more than 20 tablets powered by its Oak Trail chip.

Oak Trail, the Atom-based platform that already packs integrated graphics and the memory controller directly onto the 32-nm processor die to currently tunes tablets and hybrid devices from: Fusher IO, Fujitsu, Lenovo, Toshiba, Motion Computing, Notion, and Vilo which are new tablets showcased at the recently held Computex in Taipei.

The low-power consuming Oak Trail-powered tablets are capable of running full-blown operating systems, but the ones demonstrated in Computex feature Meego, Intel's very own OS developed in partnership with Nokia bank down to run next generation computing devices.

From powerful desktop PCs to notebook and now tablet, Intel is on a clear mission to power any computing device, portable or otherwise that connect the user to the Internet.

This has been the campaign of the company since it announced last year at the Intel Developer Forum held in San Francisco its desire to power smaller smart devices and encourage the proliferation of such devices.

Oak Trail makes it possible for tablet makers to produce devices that provide up to "all-day" battery life, according to Intel.

The rich media experience available with "Oak Trail" includes support for 1080p video decode, as well as HDMI. The platform also supports Adobe Flash, enabling rich content and Flash-based gaming. With these significant improvements in power-efficient performance, the Oak Trail direct Atom processor Z670 allows applications to run on various operating systems, including Google Android, Moblin and Windows.

"This unique flexibility delivers both new experiences and more choice when it comes to tablets and hybrid designs that combine the best features of the notebook and tablet together," according to Intel.

Until Oak Trail, Intel has not had low-power technology small enough to compete with processors based on the designs of ARM Holdings, which were in 95 percent of tablets and that include the iPad.

Along with Oak Trail-powered tablets, Intel also showcased a number of thin notebooks powered by Cedar Trail, Intel's next generation Atom chips built also using the 32nm manufacturing process and uses a unified architecture which packs both the processing cores and the GPU on the same die.

Among the new Cedar Trail-powered netbooks include those from Lenovo IdeaPad S300 that runs on Meego, Samsung Chrome Book, Fujitsu LifeBook MH380 also running on Meego platform, and Asus Eee PC 1025C running on Windows.

Tech TRENDS

World's first solar powered notebook by Samsung

SEOUL, EXPRESSER electronics giant Samsung has just launched the world's first solar-powered 10" netbook PC.

Samsung NC215S is a lightweight device that delivers power, portability and performance while also being both environmentally and personally friendly.

Two hours of sunlight can provide up to an hour of power for the netbook and combined with an overall battery life of 14.5 hours and a powerful Intel Atom processor, the Samsung NC215S offers consumers almost limitless mobility.

"Samsung is committed to setting ultra-sound product innovations; we are very proud to be bringing the world's first solar-powered 10" netbook to the market," said Kimbo Shin, senior vice president of IT Solutions Business at Samsung Electronics. "The NC215S demonstrates Samsung's continued innovation, delivering superior performance, mobility and satisfaction to our customers."

The NC215S features an integrated solar panel on the front of the notebook, allowing it to automatically charge in the daytime.

The netbook's PowerPlus battery acts as intelligent charging technology, making the battery's lifespan three times longer than that of conventional batteries. The intelligent charging technology also allows for quicker charging, creating further environmental savings and cutting carbon emissions.

The solar-powered netbook features Samsung's Fast Start technology that enables the PC to boot instantly. Another feature is the innovative hybrid sleep mode that combines the fast start-up of sleep with the stability of hibernation, so you don't have to wait 30-40 seconds for the notebook to boot up.

Despite the device's solar powered battery, NC215S didn't sacrifice performance. The NC215S features a powerful dual-core Intel Atom processor combined with an Intel GMA 3150 graphics processor, delivering a swift, responsive experience and unrivalled mobile computing performance.

A Sleep and Charge USB port can charge portable devices, such as smartphones or MP3 players, even when PC is sleeping or turned off. And if the battery has been run out you still charge your devices using solar power.

Samsung's anti-reflective display means that the NC215S Netbook screen is bright and clear whatever the outdoor conditions – even in sunlight. The device's 300nit brightness, which is up to 50 per cent brighter than competing netbooks.

The NC215S features a slim display bezel around the 16.7" display means that the viewing experience is maximised, but it still retains a highly portable form factor. The comfortable island keyboard features isolated keys, which are spaced ergonomically to provide optimum comfort while typing.

Enjoy fastest Internet speeds with Globe's 4G products

GLOBE Telecom launched a suite of multimedia devices and services that allow subscribers to enjoy its 4G mobile technology using the global standard HSPA+.

"Only a few weeks after announcing the commercial rollout of our 4G network, we are introducing a very diverse product portfolio for our early-adopter 4G, Pinoy devices, handsets to applications," said Peter Imfeld, Globe Senior Advisor for Consumer Business.

Globe introduced the revolutionary Tattoo Tonino Lamborghini, the fastest mobile broadband stick available in the market today which provides subscribers with Internet speeds of up to 14.4Mbps, or 14 times than regular broadband dongles.

Under Tattoo's newest postpaid plan, the Tattoo Tonino Lamborghini is available for only P2,199 monthly. Using the device, subscribers can enjoy and all-you-can-use, high-speed mobile broadband access powered by the country's first and biggest 4G network.

Globe is also the first operator to bring the first-ever 4G-enabled mobile phone to the country, the Samsung GALAXY S II.

Samsung GALAXY S II is the perfect handset which enables users to take advantage of the HSPA+ technology and enjoy mobile Internet of up to 21 Mbps.

The powerful device does a massive 4.3" Super AMOLED capacitive touchscreen display delivering superior video, enhanced readability, constant calls and screen sharpness.

Powered by Android 2.3 (Gingerbread) and a 1.2 GHz dual-core processor for fast web browsing, seamless multi-tasking, and superior graphics, users can turn their PC-like browsing to the palm of their hands with the ultra-slim 8.49-mm form factor, a luxurious design and an easy grip. It comes equipped with an 8MP rear camera (that also takes full 1080p HD video recording).

Touted as the next generation smartphone and the next step in the evolution of mobile communication, Samsung Galaxy S II is exclusively available to Globe subscribers for free under My Superfast Plan 2799 starting June 27.

Complementing the 4G portfolio is the Pldoo Message Service (VMS), the newest and one of the most interactive two-media channels for mobile phone users best enjoyed under the 4G network and the Samsung Galaxy S II device.

Through VMS, users can create, view, upload, share, send and receive video content through their mobile phones. It also allows users to connect with their favorite celebrities by following their video blogs and music videos, watching their video clips, or being updated with the latest happenings and events through partnerships with GMA New Media. As a special treat, HBO is still available for free to My Superfast Plan subscribers until July 31.

When asked, "Compleneering the launch of our offers is the aggressive expansion of our 4G HSPA+ sites, which will benefit more subscribers in the coming months." To date, commercial deployment of HSPA+ has doubled, with presence now available in Mandaluyong, Navotas, Caloocan and Valenzuela.

To know more about the offers, visit www.globe.com.ph.

AA battery powered digicam that takes good pictures

THE OA4A0T is a home-rich 12 megapixel its optical zoom digital camera with a 2.7" touch screen LCD display. It takes AA batteries, making it a convenient digital camera for the road. With a new user interface, the OA4A0T is a great compact digital camera that offers intuitive navigation at an exceptional value.

The new user interface features doubles 3D zoom and greater color contrast for improved visibility when navigating menu selections even in bright light. In addition, when you're choosing scene modes, two images are shown as examples of how a picture would look like to compensate to using the auto mode.

The touch LCD screen lets you easily access all the camera functions without having to push buttons. You can use your fingers to zoom and to and out when viewing pictures, and swipe left or right to scroll through different menu items.

By using the "touch shot" function, you can point at any subject on the screen, let the camera auto-focus, and take a picture at the release of your finger.

With smile detection, the camera will search for a smile and automatically take the picture when it detects that the subject is smiling. This feature is especially helpful when trying to capture pictures of young children smiling in front of the camera.

When you use the blink detection feature, the camera alerts you if a subject is blinking when the picture is taken. The camera will then prompt you to either keep or delete the picture, allowing you the opportunity to retake pictures as you deem necessary.

With the camera's over 25 scene modes, you can easily ensure the best shot or inspired to different shooting situations. Pick the mode that best matches your activity or use the intelligent scene mode to let the camera detect the conditions and select the best mode for you.

The best power surge protector for your home

IT'S HOLLY season so it's a PC user when the electricity starts flickering and momentarily blacks out the PC screen. Fluctuating electrical current can really harm electronic devices, which aren't designed for sudden shocks in current like fluctuations. In order to prolong the life of personal and costly electrical appliances, it's always a good idea to purchase a surge safety unit.

One product that really does the job of protecting appliances from current fluctuations is Belkin surge protector.

It is a small electronic device you plug into electrical outlets and acts as an intermediary between the power source (household electrical outlets) and electronic devices, such as computers, televisions, refrigerators, and the like.

This specialized equipment is structurally designed to divert extra electrical power (caused by the electrical surge/overcurrent) from the ability line to the electric ground.

Belkin surge protection has a strategically placed MOV (metallic oxide varistor) in its circuitry to provide various routes for the surplus electrical current to counteract away from the digital devices. Once the power in the circuit is dissipated by the MOVs into the burner, the digital units are out of danger.

When using a Belkin surge protector,

To protect your appliances from electrical fluctuation, just plug the Belkin surge protector in to an electrical outlet which runs all other electronic home equipment. Once an appliance is plugged into the Belkin surge protector, surge protection circuitry kicks in automatically so there is no need for you to worry for something when you plug it in.

Belkin has been a major competitor since many manufacturer for years and makes some of the best power protection products. It's a company that features coverage protection products and so it really knows what it does best.

Belkin surge protection range from 19.99 (Belkin 3-way surge protector economy version) to P2,999 (Belkin 6-way surge protector superior series).

Panasonic SC-HC25-feature-rich compact stereo system

ENGINEERED elegance and superb performance these are what SC-HC25 can promise to both music aficionados and sound observers. Himself with chairperson.

The stereo it is a surprising package that adopted Bluetooth connectivity to power up to 3.6 watt output speakers and produce an unrivaled sound in a more extensive range.

In addition, its ultra-chic design that matches with the home color complements any room to which it listener wants to experience clearer vocals, crisper dialogs and finely-tuned audio reproduction.

Sound reproduction is always to high quality with the Panasonic SC-HC25 is installed in bedrooms for soothing music, kitchens for up-beat songs, and boardrooms for appropriate audio quality with regard to visual presentations. It also has a multi-format playback function support to play CD and CD-R/RW audio discs, and MP3 playback.

The Panasonic SC-HC25 has a stylishly designed motorized porcelain sliding door (installed for the protection of CDs against the usual scratches and abrasion while sound clarity becomes even more spectacular with the integrated motorized dock for iPod and iPhone further lends to this device's dynamism. Cable is also not needed for playback to connect to the Panasonic SC-HC25 since the iPod dock will cable out from the bottom of the unit itself for better convenience.

Audio from the play back of digital content, the Panasonic SC-HC25 keeps the compatible picture charged in a three dynamics so much the on the go and busy lifestyles of tech savvy users.

The convenience of connecting sub gadgets to the Panasonic SC-HC25 becomes even more inviting as it can power 30/60 and 15 AM radio stations or find a station using the Auto Tune functionality. Inbuilt in digital synthesizer fix the mood for listening to your favourite tracks.

The Panasonic SC-HC25 has enhanced sound quality that you for me to pitch, time and timbre suits to your equalizer comprised of heavy, dose, soft, vocal and flat.

You can also view the song title, artist or radio frequency via its elegant and classy blue LCD display with advanced distinct while a programmable timer can play the unit to play a specific show such as current news, sports updates and top of the chart songs. It can be customized to dimpas as well, in case the lit bored wireless remote control is not handy before bedtime. Plus, no more oversleeping but keep your mornings engaging while waking up to a preferred tune.

Cash-thin valuable and versatile appliance, the Panasonic SC-HC25 from your trusted Panasonic dealer for only P6,999.

On a serious path to become top consumer electronics name

Eee Pad Transformer is just a teaser as Asus introduces more exciting gadgets

By Raquel P Gamez

Eee Pad Transformer

Eee Pad powered Maggy notbook with solid state drive Asus X101

TAIPEI/SILICON maker Asus is serious about becoming a big name in consumer electronics as it showed its might and power at the recently held Computex IT show in Taipei.

The company launched its most talked about Transformer Eee Pad 3011, an Android run tablet that turns into an instant netbook via a docking keyboard accessory.

Asus also previewed the PadFone, a smart phone that can be inserted fully at the back of a bigger touch tablet for the user to enjoy web-enabled multimedia content on a larger touch responsive screen. There's also the 7-inch Eee Pad MeMo 370 that features gimmicky 3-D technology for viewing 3D content on a tablet device.

Asus didn't stop at creating various forms of tablets. It's also very much focused on bringing out slim ultrabooks like those of Intel's next generation Ivy Bridge Core Trail and second generation Intel Core processors, now operating systems such as the Meego, and bigger capacity solid state drive.

The company, which still remains a global top manufacturer of motherboards and VGA cards, is laying wide path in consumer electronics, a playing field that is already heaping with so many portable devices of different brands that name recognition is really important if you want to be in consumers' top part of the field.

Stanley Chen, country manager for Asus Philippines, said the company isn't just really making a lot of noise, but investing in new products that feature technologies like "sound-boring" that appeals to the masses and promoting them profusely to marketing channels and advertising.

"Now company has embarked on campaign to make it known as a consumer brand. In the past nobody recognizes Asus as a consumer brand, since it was more focused on motherboards and PC components. Right now we are on an image campaign as a consumer company. This is a major change for us," says Chen.

One big advantage of Asus becoming a serious player in the consumer electronics industry is its strong engineering background, which Chen says is composed of a big group of 5,000 people at R & D tasked to develop a new product with innovations not yet found in the others.

For example, Chen says, Asus pioneered "color coding" in motherboards that make it easy for DIY (do it yourself) PC makers to assemble their own.

Next up Asus strategy isn't just confined to making new consumer products but also creation of an "eco system" to support the products. For example, Asus has already introduced cloud based services MyCentral and MyAsus.

MyCentral is an online web storage tied up to 40 Asus product. A purchase of an Eee Pad Transformer or all Asus netbook or notebook will allow the user to enjoy free online storage, ostensibly the storage capacity of the devices. In addition, Eee-up loaded to be web storage can be easily shared with other devices. MyAsu, on the other hand, is a web service that gathers useful applications that can be downloaded into an Asus product.

Having cloud services on hand would surely encourage user loyalty, says Chen. "We are one of the manufacturers to push for a cloud computing, so by providing a web service that can help you easily access data anywhere anywhere."

Asus is also looking into the TV, which has been transformed to other brands into PC and Internet device.

Chen says the company will introduce an LED TV that has embedded OPhey, Asus web multimedia player. "So you can just tune your TV and play music, movies by Internet or a storage. No need to attach enabled devices like Eee Transformer."

Chen says Asus will be partnering with Globe Telecoms to launch the cheapest and thinnest netbook the Asus X101H. It's a new netbook measuring only 17.6 mm, running on Meego OS, and powered by Intel Atom Color Trail and has 6Gb. Chen says when the product is introduced, it will only cost around P 16,000 plus.

"Since 2008, ASA is one of our key focus Asus has been boasting a lot of money into these countries. And we trust the Philippines as an important market as we've expanded our operations here."

Get picture perfect photos with the NX 11

Text and photos by Eugene Asensio

MOST serious snapshot artist's pursuit for perfection can only be achieved with the aid of a highly efficient medium at hand to create an artistic image.

For many snapshot artists wanting to create art in their photo images, the new Samsung NX11 is the ideal camera to have.

The NX11 is the latest release from its mirrorless/lens less camera system from Samsung. It is a great improvement from previous NX10 model since now it features an easy to use i-Function lens, the same one used in Samsung's smallest interchangeable lens camera system the NX100.

With the easy to use i-Function lens, the NX11 becomes a necessity and for a user to come out with picture perfect photos.

The new i-Function lens provides an easy way of controlling the camera. It manually allows the photographer to use his left hand to adjust settings through a built in button that resides on the physical body of the lens.

With this convenience, the photographer can toggle between shutter speed, aperture, EV steps, White Balance, and ISO (Iso speed) in the different shooting modes (Photo, Auto, Shutter-Priority, Aperture-Priority, and Manual) quickly and easily, allowing for speedy configuration during the actual shoot.

For the money, the NX11 features a good body grip design, which makes shooting comfortable and easier for the users. The camera is also equipped with a lens priority mode that is compatible switching for the best mode for each lens.

The NX11 is fitted with a 14.6 megapixel APS-C CMOS sensor, which is larger than that of a Micro Four-Thirds system found in Panasonic GF1 and Olympus Pen cameras), delivering high quality and cleaner images with richer, more natural colors.

The NX11 records Full HD 1080p movies at 30 frames per second in 720p pixel resolution with a 6.2GB advanced video compression of MPEG4 format. An APS-C size large CMOS sensor offers not only detailed and clear video clips, but also allows target objects to stand out of the picture like in motion pictures.

This camera also features a quick and accurate auto focus function that focuses with a speed approximately at 170 milliseconds (0.17 seconds). No more missed photo opportunity with Samsung half out of the frame. With this speed, you can capture fleeting moments perfectly before they pass you by.

The NX11 also features Smart Pictury, which lets you record the music in the background and the laughter of loved ones as you take a still photo. Now, that is truly entertaining as telling your memories from a photo can now be a much more vivid experience.

With an SEP of P39, 990, the NX11 comes with Samsung 20-50mm F3.5-5.6 lit lens. You may also choose between black and silver models.

Beauty and brains in Acer Iconia Tab A500

As a multimedia device, the Iconia Tab features Dolby Mobile technology that enhances the audio performance of the tablet's high fidelity stereo speakers. As a bonus treat, the Iconia Tab has preinstalled HD games "Shroud of Sparta," "Let's Golf!," and "Need for Speed: Shift."

There's also the innovative Acer Social Jogger application, combined with the Acer Iconia Tab A500's two built-in cameras (rear and front), makes keeping in touch and up-to-date a cinch.

NOTE: Acer Iconia Tab A500 is the first 10.1-inch tablet produced by the top PC maker listed on the Android 3.0 (Honeycomb) platform.

Designed for productivity-minded users who are unwilling to compromise style and originality, the tablet is, judging by looks alone, a visual stunner. It's chic all over anyone craving to breathe new air of sleekness, creating a modern vogue and who not commonly seen in traditional consumer electronics.

The Acer Iconia Tab A500 is 8.52-inch thin and weighs 1.40 pounds and physically defined by smooth glass surface and curved edges. Despite its good physical appeal, the tablet packs in some heavyweight features.

Apart from Google's tablet optimized Honeycomb OS, the Iconia is powered by NVIDIA Tegra 2 dual-core supership that make the tablet capable of breathtaking visuals, ultra-fast processing, dual 1280x800 multi-touch screen display, and responsive 6-axis motion sensing system.

The Iconia Tab also features an impressive battery life hours on HD media playback and 10 hours of Internet) – not to mention built-in Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and GPS connectivity – which makes the tablet an extremely dependable mobile device.

Power meets affordability

HTC Rhyme is the result of its customers and that it launched HTC Wildfire S smartphone, an affordable, compact and playful device that packs a powerful smart phone experience while building on the popularity of the HTC Wildfire smartphone.

It enables people to maintain and build connections and friendships through popular sites like Facebook, as well as through voice and text messaging. You can instantly tag your friends in photos before sharing them on Facebook, or share your latest discoveries from the Android Market at the touch of a button.

"The new HTC Wildfire S offers an enviable combination of value for money, compact design and easy to use Internet that is as unique as you are," said Leonard Hoornik, president, HTC South Asia Pacific. "The HTC Wildfire S makes enjoying connected social sharing your content, thoughts and emotions with your friends and the world a truly fun experience."

HTC Wildfire S is one of HTC's smallest smartphones ever measuring just 10.1 cm long and 5.94cm wide – and boasts a distinctive 3.2 inch, HVGA display.

The HTC Wildfire S is now available in 'Bloom Pink', 'Silver White' and 'Dark Grey' at Smart Communications and authorized resellers at P15,500.

Organizations should prioritize security to avoid data breaches says expert

MANILA Vice President Jojo Almaz's official website getting hacked was injected recently, definitely sending perpetrators just wanted to emphasize on the vulnerability of the website. There was also the recent news of Sony's website getting hacked, with the perpetrators apparently amassing a wealth of data from PlayStation customers.

It's like age where people spend more time in the Internet or upload or share a lot of personal and sensitive files, security is now a critical aspect that organizations should prioritize to protect company data from breaches, said Alison Higgins-Miller, vice president for Websense Asia Pacific.

People enjoying web-based services is an unstoppable trend that exposes companies to data vulnerabilities, said Miller.

She added companies won't be able to stop their employees from accessing social networking sites like Facebook or those sites are also deemed useful in promoting company brand, products and services. Employees too are into the "device blog" trend or having the desire to access websites by the latest gadgets or mobile devices that connect to a cloud to be functional.

"Social networking sites are popular and are considered useful tool for business communities. Alongside this trend is also the trend of people wanting to use their latest portable device and this is a major problem for company IT people – because how do you secure those devices?"

Miller advises organizations, big and small, to really invest in security to prevent data breaches that are more often than not, are caused by employees that they're already the ones sharing sensitive information.

Websense is a global security company that offers unified security architecture for web, email and data security from any point to provide the best security for companies faced with modern and advanced threats.

Its newest winning TRITON solution, which is currently offered by Net-patrol Philippines, Inc., is a unified security architecture that combines web, email, and data security. Raquel P Gamez

Motherboard maker ECS diversifies into consumer electronics

'In order for us to thrive in the new field like the smartphones and tablets, we need more providers of OS and chip solution to power the devices. And this means more choices for the consumers.'

ECS headquarter in Taipei is a 'green' facility

By Raquel P. Gomez

PC desktops are again getting affected by newer forms of computing devices such as smartphones and tablets that feature PC functionalities and instant access to the web.

But the EliteGroup Computer Systems Co., LTD (ECS), the world's No. 2 supplier of PC motherboards, doesn't really mind. It remains confident that PC desktop will remain and still exist to a large consumers population who want to make their own powerful PCs. Unlike with them, and do major upgrades and revisions for specific needs like multimedia, intensive gaming, video editing tasks, and home networking.

David Chien, vice president of ECS, likens the PC desktop to a bicycle or motorcycle, which still remains ubiquitous and popular among consumers despite trends in the vehicle industry.

"Everybody is worried about the desktop. I have to say it's like the motorcycle or bicycle industry, it has matured and everybody can buy one."

"The PC DIY market will still hark for performance that desktop could bring, but new technologies like Ivybirch and overclocking capabilities in ECS' ancient boards are able to make desktops power efficient. We're creating a lot of technologies that make desktop performance friendly."

Vice president of ECS, David Chien

ECS motherboards have the ability to check the system's temperature if it heats up and acts accordingly, which is a unique function introduced by ECS into its new motherboard designs. There is also long stability at 105 percent more for A55 and A68 designs are also some of the features of the new motherboards.

The trend of proliferating consumer electronics is now influencing ECS, which is a big OEM making products for the likes of Compaq and IBM, to diversify and go into into consumer products space.

It now has products that cover tablets, netbooks, netbooks, and all-in-one PCs. Chien says the company is now also seriously getting into the commercial space by making small form factors PCs as well as and motherboards for those more energy-efficient office PCs. ECS is also making motherboards designed for point-of-sale functions.

But Chien admits it will take some time for ECS to be recognized as a consumer electronics maker. The company's expertise is still making motherboards and somehow that got stuck to consumer perception.

He says ECS still wants its huge income from OEM business and selling motherboards and other PC parts, about 75 percent of the company's

All-in-one PC

dedicated to OEM.

Chien says the company is also serious about adopting the Meego OS, the OS jointly developed by Intel and Nokia to run mobile platforms, for its tablet products powered by Intel's Oakland chips, the fastest low power Atom processor.

He says Android OS has limitations as there are "too many" versions of the OS running several types of devices. As such, no single update could readily be implemented on every device, to allow them to carry only one latest version, the new features of which would be enjoyed by the consumers.

"I think this is a bottleneck for the Android," says Chien.

He sees Intel's new Oakteal chips combined with Meego would further increase the number of mobile and web-centric devices and encourage further drop in prices of those gadgets.

"Finally Intel has found solutions to Oakwell, a low power consumption processor that can support Windows, Android, and all OS. If Intel wants to win in the new tablet business, they have to build an OS, which is the Meego."

"This is good news for us and the consumers as well. In order for us to thrive in the new field like the smartphones and tablets, we need more providers of OS and chip solution to power the devices. And this means more choices for the consumers."

TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation >>>

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
Toshiba recommends Windows 7.

5 colours,
2 Harman Kardon® Speakers,
1 GREAT PERFORMANCE

Watch a notebook with Harman Kardon® speakers

P 1,999.71

P 1,899.83

Talk 2 Toshiba

Enjoy a sound trip with new and hip Satellite

By Raquel P. Gomez

Toshiba Satellites are the popular laptops always carried by students and people in the academe. Not just a conference and you'd see students huddled together before a Satellite laptop making deals or group assignments.

Satellites have been known as a reliable companion under current multi-media laptops that can record with high image price and that's precisely the reason why young people invest in the brand. They can do their homework with it and also leisurely enjoy built-in multimedia boast. The brought about by a combination of good specs and stylish tones.

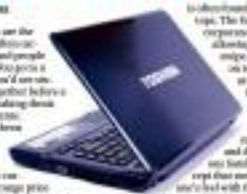
As a Japanese brand, Toshiba isn't known to emphasize features of their products, but is well known as innovative and investor of top features.

For example, the new Toshiba Satellite P745, which is already powered by second generation Intel Core i5 processor (Sandy Bridge), features Dolby Sound Audio Harman Kardon speakers (precisely located on top of the full-size type keyboard), which creates bass like a top of the line speaker system. Plug any music player, for example an iPod, into the USB port when the laptop is turned off and instantly the music plays.

It has "Instant and movie" feature via an add-ons to the Satellite's famous "sleep and charge" feature that allows charging of electronics devices plugged onto its USB port even when the laptop is turned off.

By the way, one USB port found in the laptop is already USB 3.0 equipped, which means capable of blazing fast data transfer speeds to and from the laptop is much faster.

Fingerprint reader as a security measure to allow frustrated customers log-ins.



To make the system look more chic high-end feel, Toshiba incorporated cool touches such as the mirrored trackball to suit her on top of the keyboard. One can also replace the laptop room set, it's like having a matching trendy notebook.

There's also the presence of illuminated blue on top of the touch pad, which the user can turn on and off by one of the mouse function.

Illumination also serves a function on the keyboard that automatically lights up when the laptop senses you're working in dark area, allowing for the user to do work even at night.

With all the illumination plus the super clear display (WSGA HD Clear SuperView LED TFT display 1,366 x 768 resolution), the Satellite P745 do look pretty good anywhere working inside a dim room.

Here's a rundown of Satellite P745 features:

- Intel Core TM i5-2410M processor 2.30GHz with Turbo Boost Technology up to 2.90GHz (2.3GHz, 3MB Cache, Window Experience Index is 6.7
- 8.0GB DDR3 1333MHz SDRAM
- NVIDIA® GeForce® GT 525M with Optimus Technology (2GB VRAM) – Nvidia Optimus technology saves battery life by automatically switching the power of the GPU off when it is not needed and switching it on when demand for it arises.
- Built-in 640 WebCamera
- Hard disk drive protection
- Genuine Windows® 7 Home Premium 64-bit
- Weighs 2.27 kg.